Season's Greetings

WE OFFER OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO YOU
AND YOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
CHRISTMAS 2000

A Natural Work of Art
HALIBURTON
HIGHLANDS

Season's Greetings

Best wishes to all our members
From the Board of Directors
Haliburton Highlands
Chamber of Commerce

Dennis Casey
President

Peter Rigby
Manager

People Everywhere Share The Dream Of Peace

This special season, we join with all faiths to pray that the world continues on its way toward realizing that dream.

Happy Holiday
Thank you for your continued support.
Gord & Julie
HALIBURTON & MINDEN
HEARING SERVICE

"Behold, the Lamb of God."
John 1:29
May the light of love and joy shine
on you and your family throughout the year.
God bless you.

HALIBURTON
VETERINARY SERVICES
Dr. Laurie Brown & Staff

CELEBRATING *the magic and joy of CHRISTMAS in words and pictures*

Christmas is a magical season in the Haliburton Highlands. Streets bustle with shoppers, festive lights brighten the night, lakes freeze over and the first snow lifts our spirits and banishes the cold, dark days of November.

Christmas is a time for sharing, for appreciating friends and family, and for basking in the contentment of good food and warm laughter. Most of all, Christmas is a time for children. Their bright smiles and infectious excitement fill us with love, and rekindle fond memories of Christmases past, when we, too, awaited the arrival of Santa with breathless excitement.

This special supplement includes stories by and about people with whom we share the community, as well as photos taken at church Christmas concerts. We hope it brings a smile to your face, and stirs your own delight at magical Christmas mornings past and to come. On these pages you will also find messages of goodwill, thanks and appreciation from local businesses -- friends and neighbours who contribute so much to making the Highlands a special place to live and work.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Let the angels sing...

and you can too at Christmas Eve carol services

This list of services is from the Arts On events calendar. Please check with listings on page 15 for verification and more detailed church service calendar..

• 3:30 p.m. Haliburton Highland Silver Flutes, special Christmas service, St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton, 457-2074.

• 7:00 p.m. Christmas Carol Singing followed by 7:30 p.m. Special Christmas Music and Dramatic Presentation at Communion Service. St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton, 457-2074.

• 7:00 p.m. Lamplight Christmas Carol Service, non-denominational at the restored, Historic (1888) Essonville Church, 448-1604.

• 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Carol Service, Haliburton United Church, 457-1891.

• 7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Carol Service, Minden United Church, 286-1470.

• 7:00 p.m. Christmas Carol Service, Maple Lake United Church, 286-1470.

• 7:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Service, St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Victoria St., Haliburton, 457-3695.

THINGS TO DO

Arts On for the holidays

The following is from the 'Arts On' cultural events guide for December and January:

Tour de Force presents Playtime, an eight-week, recreational theatre arts production for youth, ages 10 - 14, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., starting January 15 at the YWCA Women's Resource Centre in Haliburton. First come, first served enrollment. $120 per child per session. Lesley at 754-1873 or e-mail at ravenshaw@sympatico.ca.

• Artisan Workshops: 489-3311. Learn to make Dreamcatchers, moccasins, and leather mitts. Amanda Newell will also teach the art of native beadwork and jewellery.

December 27

• Jim Cronk live kids show, 8:00 p.m., live at the Moose Bar & Grill, Wigamog Inn, Haliburton, 457-2012 or 457-2000.

• Yuk Yuk's Comedy, 9:45 p.m., live at the Moose Bar & Grill, Wigamog Inn. Adult contemporary performer.

January 6

8:30 p.m. Open Stage, live at the Wild Oats Café. Enjoy regional performers, or get on stage and perform. 1st and 3rd Saturday every month.

January 14

2:00 p.m. Razzmatazz Kid's Show! Ants in yer pants performed by The Stylamanders, Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Call Karen Phipps for tickets.

BRYCE'S WINDSHIELD SERVICE

Season's Greetings to all

We Will Match The Competition

HALIBURTON 457-2099 MINDEN 286-3344

Our advertsisers hope you enjoy this special Greetings issue

Greetings of the Season

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

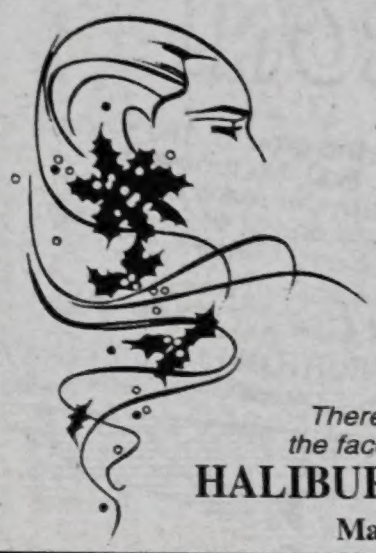
Murray Fearrey
Reeve - Municipality of Dysart et al

Season's Greetings

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year

Merrill & Merrie Barry

Merrill Barry Co. Ltd.



The Spirit Of The Season

There is nothing more beautiful than Your ready smile, Your gentle eyes, Your warm "Hello." There's nothing more beautiful than the face of friendship you've shown us.

HALIBURTON HAIRDRESSING

Marion, Margo & Joanne

The merriest of holidays to you and Thanks for your loyal patronage

The Management and Staff of

WEST GUILFORD SHOPPING CENTRE

Bill and Edna Burden, Chad & Stephenie Burden, Cori Burden, Pat Morrison, Doris Laporte, Rhonda Shaw, Logan Roberts, Mary Sisson, Vicki Sisson, Katie Clark, Aaron Martin

Season's Greetings

Barry and Kendra
and the families of

BLAIR
Sand & Gravel

Anne Creelman
KIDS REVIEW

AMAZING - and easy - FUN with FLEECE

Kids Can Do It – Making Fleece Crafts
By Judy Ann Sadler
Published by Kids Can Press
$5.95

TO TRUE SEAMSTRESSES and tailors, fabrics such as linen and peau de soie make their hearts sing. However, if you are a kid and you live in Canada, there is only one miracle fabric and that is FLEECE.

Judy Ann Sadler has come up with the perfect holiday gift book for the crafty kid on your list, be they male or female. Making Fleece Crafts shows you how to create fun, funky and functional items that anyone would be proud to give or receive.

If you've never used fleece before, you'll be absolutely amazed at how easy it is to use, with pretty impressive results. It doesn't run, fray or unravel, it is stretchy and comes in a veritable cornucopia of fabulous colours and patterns. Sadler has designed all of the projects in this book to be made out of fleece by either simple sewing techniques or gluing. She explains briefly how to mark and pin your project so that everything lines up properly. This is important, especially if you are using a permanent fabric glue, as is necessary in a project like the Bean Bag Pig or the Fleecy Frog. Other projects such as the Dino-Mite Hat or the Two-Colour Mittens require some elementary sewing. But do not fear non-sewers, for Judy Ann Sadler gives wonderful instructions on all of the stitches you will need, complete with illustrations. A sewing machine is not mandatory for any of the sewing, although it can simplify doing longish seam, as needed in the Jester hat. If you don't have a machine, this book teaches you how to thread a needle, knot the thread and sewing overcast, back and blanket stitches. My daughter has learned to do a lovely blanket stitch to border just about anything.

I think the appeal of this book is that the results produced are not just little trinkets or knick-knacks but really useful items. Giving a gift and seeing someone use and genuinely enjoy it helps a person's sense of pride and self-esteem. Fleece is such a great fabric for beginning sewers to start on since it is so sturdy and pretty much indestructible. It is also warm, cosy and soft to work on so if you need a break from your creating you can always curl up on it! Siobhan went nuts for this book and promptly made three of the Blanket Pillows (a lovely fleece cover that fold neatly up into a pillow) for she and her brother and sister. They all use them while watching television or nestling in to read a good book. They are just great.

I really think Judy Ann Sadler did a great job producing this book. It is colourful and easy to follow but better than that, it makes creators and artists out of anyone who picks it up. The wonders of fleece are out there to be discovered and I really think the book Making Fleece Crafts by Judy Ann Sadler can help you experience many of them. Enjoy and be warm!

HOPE YOUR SEASON IS TREE-MENDOUS!

We're truly grateful for your friendship and support.

COUNTY AUTO REPAIR & RADIATOR SERVICE

HALIBURTON
457-1411

Bob, Dianne,
James, Mike
Ken & Families

A Sign Of The SEASON!

The snow gently blankets the ground. The world becomes a softer place. And the time arrives to look around us, and count our many blessings. We count your friendship as one of the blessings we treasure most. Merry Christmas!

ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM
GLORIA & JIM CARNOCHAN
COUNTRYWIDE HALIBURTON REALTY LTD.
KENNISIS/REDSTONE LAKE

With a little ribbon & rope, it's easy to cope!

Ribbon is a beautiful and effective way to add festive flair to your home-made gifts

Anne Creelman
KIDS' COUNTY

There are always those occasions over the holidays when you are invited to drop in somewhere or someone pops over and you hadn't really bought a hostess gift but you want to give a little something as a remembrance or treat. These items need not be lavish or extravagant but they can be pretty, functional and fun and, at the ready for holiday giving.

You don't have to be Martha Stewart (or have her bank account) to achieve lovely results that will delight any recipient but you do have to let loose and be creative so go for it.

There are so many beautiful ribbons, ropes and cords available now that it is a shame not to use them. Their colour and glamour can brighten up even the most mundane gift and all for just a few dollars. Sandy and Mary Ann at Crafts and More are always happy to help and if you go in and arm yourself with a variety of their extensive stock, you'll be ready for anything.

Here are just a few suggestions of what you can wrap and tie for giving and decorating:

• Take a bundle of five or six no-drip candles, group them together in a bunch and either tape around the circumference or use an elastic band. Choose a beautiful ribbon or metallic cording and starting, about mid-way down the candle, wrap the ribbon around the candle. Secure it at the bottom with a dab of hot glue. Or you can just tie a large bow with your ribbon.

• Wrap some beautiful grosgrain ribbon around some pretty soaps (the Haliburton Soap Company has many great varieties), secure it with a pin and perhaps some pretty buttons. This makes a lovely gift for just about anyone.

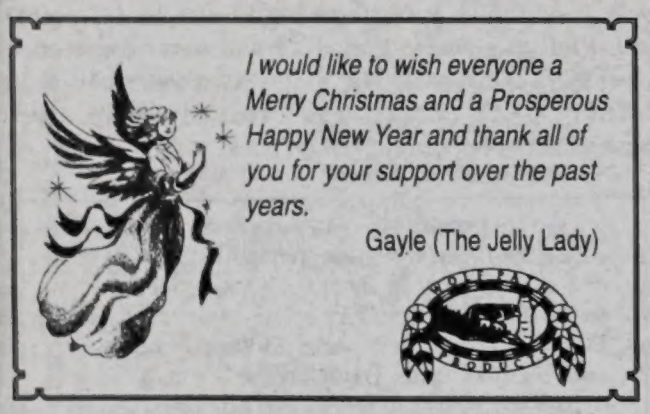
• Buy a bag of gold Hershey kisses. Dump them into some cellophane wrap and tie it up with an attractive bit of cording. Make a bunch of these and plop them in a glass bowl or basket by the door. They are great to send home with people as they leave your house.

• Tie some festive gold ribbon around the stem of you wineglasses for a festive table setting.

• Hang colourful Christmas balls and ornaments on beautiful velvet ribbon and suspend them from the top of the window trim. This way they can be enjoyed from inside and outside.

• Wrap homemade preserves or cookies up with some ribbon for a homespun look that will wow.

The possibilities are endless and the variety is extensive so just go crazy. Remember that people love homemade presents and if they look pretty, they give twice the pleasure. Tie yourself up with a flourish with some of the fabulous ribbons and have a very festive Christmas.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Best Wishes to all our customers & friends. Thank you for your patronage.

Brenda, Joanne, Jim & Kim

Country Rose
Flowers • Gifts • Gardens
Haliburton

Sharing Christmas Memories...

Residents of Hyland Crest recall special Christmases

by HAZEL WHITTAKER

I LOOKED IN THE EATON'S CATALOGUE, weeks before Christmas. I wanted an Eaton Beauty doll and a set of china dishes. I told my mother, I wanted Santa Claus to bring them. She told me, Old Santa may not be able to afford them.

About two days before Christmas, my mother and Dad went out visiting, leaving my brother Buck and I home alone. We kind of surmised that there was no Santa, so we thought we'd have a look around the house. We got on our bellies under the bed and, sure enough, there was our Christmas presents. I got what I wanted! When Mom and Dad came home, I told them that I knew there was no Santa. My mother told me I shouldn't have been snooping! She put our presents away again, and we couldn't have them until Christmas morning.

My cousin, Nellie Morrison got an Eaton Beauty doll too. I took my doll up to her house and we thought they might be hungry, so, we tucked food into their tiny mouths. The food went right straight into their legs. A week or so later, my aunt said to me, "Hazel, I smell something rotten!" She discovered the food inside the body of the dolls. She took them all apart and cleaned the food out, and then sewed the legs back on. They were as good as new. We knew better than to try feeding them again!

by NELLIE RANSON

I WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE in England, so I never got a lot of gifts, but we always had a good dinner with turkey, dressing, plum pudding and all the trimmings. There were about 30 children there and on Christmas eve we would all hang up our stockings and go to bed early (which we did anyway).

In the morning, we got up early and walked to church for the Christmas service. Then we would all come back to the orphanage for a late breakfast of porridge and toast (no bacon and eggs, of course). Then you were allowed to see what was in your stocking. Usually it was an apple, an orange and a few candies. We made each other little gifts, drew pictures or gave a little book to read. There would always be a piece of coal and a potato in your stocking. I think that was just to fill it up!

We had to behave at the orphanage, but they were very good to me. I was there until I was 15-1/2 years old. I left to come to Canada. I will never forget the journey over by boat. The food was wonderful and I wasn't seasick once. It was a real adventure. I've never had the opportunity to go back.

THANK YOU
FOR PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN US.
From the families & staff of
MINDEN HOME HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLIES

SEASON'S GREETINGS
from Linda & Guido
Thank you for your patronage. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.
Kash Landing Café
overlooking beautiful Lake Kashagawigamog
INGOLDSBY

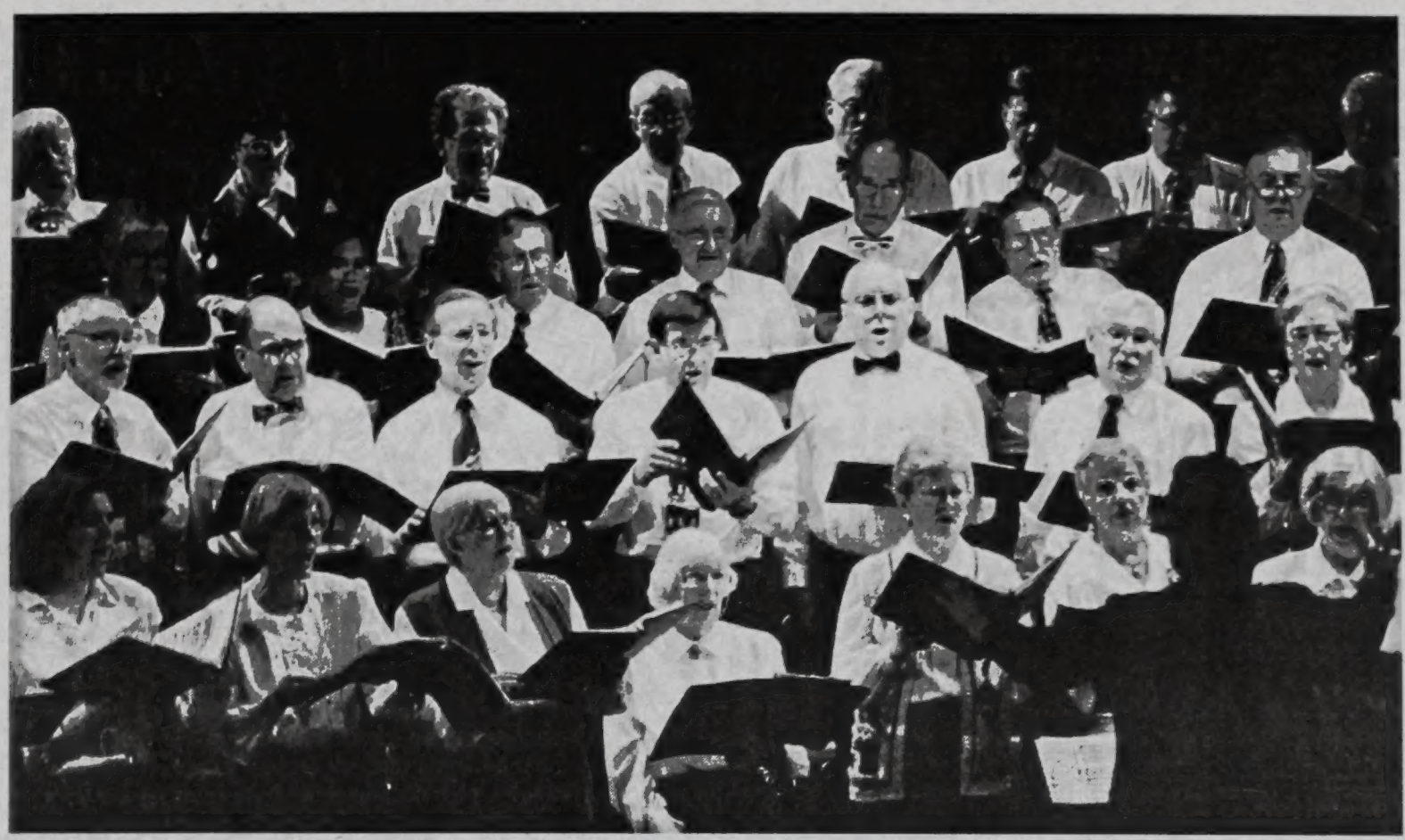
Ed Muenzel
Fine Interior Finishing, Renovations & Building Repairs
Season's Greetings
from
Ed & Jennifer

Curtis Eastmure*
Jane Johnston Accounting
Kay Morrison Administration
Shawn Hagerman*
Lindsey Coates Marketing

Season's Greetings
Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

PLANNED BENEFITS INC.
HALIBURTON
Licensed With Clarica Life Insurance Company And * Clarica Investco Inc.

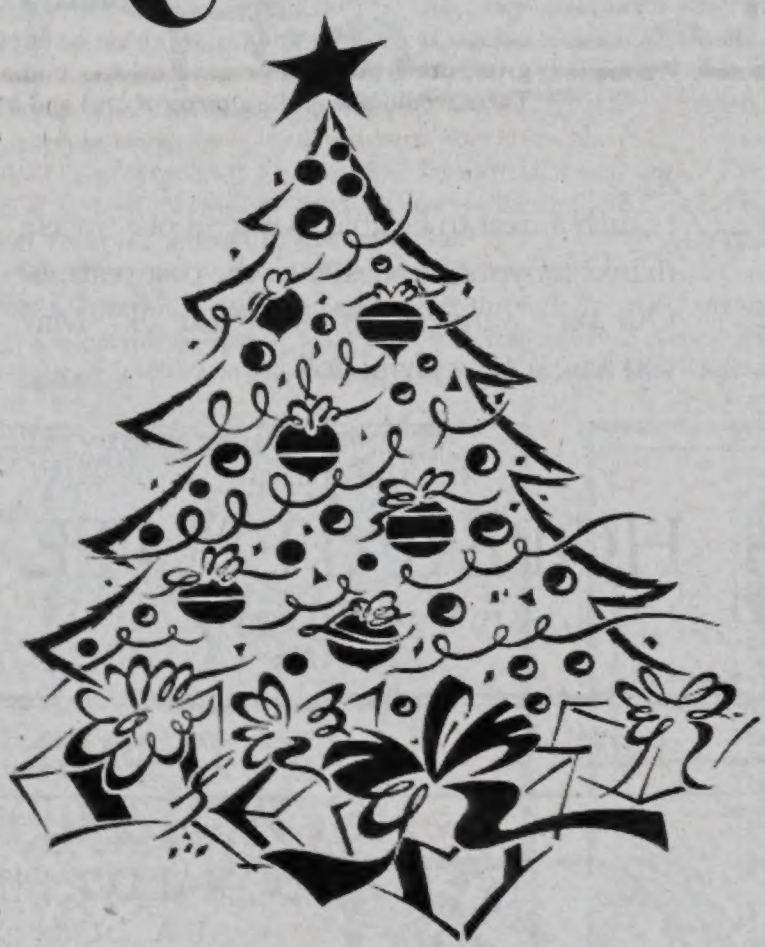
HOLIDAY GREETINGS!
We're happy to have this opportunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year. Thanks!
Doug's Appliance Service
Doug & Ailleen Moore



LEN PIZZEY/Echo

One enduring Christmas tradition is a performance by The Messiah Choir directed by Melissa Stephens. Early in December, this dedicated group of local amateur singers delighted the crowds at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with "Simply Christmas", a compilation of seasonal favourites old and new. Their next performance is "A Night at the Opera" in May.

Merry Christmas



To all our fine customers: We hope you enjoy a happy holiday season filled with warmth and peace. Our Best Wishes of the Season to everyone.

YOUNGDALE FUELS

109 INDUSTRIAL RD., HALIBURTON • 457-2500
Ed, Lynn & Chris

the SEASON'S BEST

It's the time of year to step back and appreciate the many ways in which we have been blessed. May you enjoy the best things about the holiday season-the warmth of hearth and home, the closeness of the ones you love the most.

From All of Us at
HIGHLAND GARDENS PRODUCE
Bob, Bill, Audrey, Kay, Carol, Jamie, Chris

A Christmas Wish

May the true spirit of Christmas be yours, just as in the manger on that Holy Night, when the Star first shone above.

Peace and joy to your whole family from ours, all through the season and the coming year.

EAGLE LAKE FOOD TOWN
Allan, Ellenor Bagg & Family and Staff

It's Always a Pleasure to Serve You!

Customers like you make it all worthwhile.
Wishing you all a very merry season.

RIP'S SLEEPY HOLLOW

Charlotte, Mary, Gary, Susan, Myra, Ryan & Kyle

We are taking a break!
Re-Opening
April 13, 2001

It's a pleasure to serve you.
Customers like you
make it all worthwhile.

Thanks from the management and staff of

Eastons
valu-mart
Haliburton & Minden

President's Choice
no name™
CLUB PACK™

Thank You For Your Heartwarming Patronage

Best wishes for a safe
and happy holiday!

From everyone at
BOWES & COCKS LIMITED,
Realtor
Haliburton & Wilberforce

It's such a treat to be able to extend our sincere thanks for your business over the past year. Our very warmest wishes to you all. May you have a truly joyful holiday season.

from all of us at

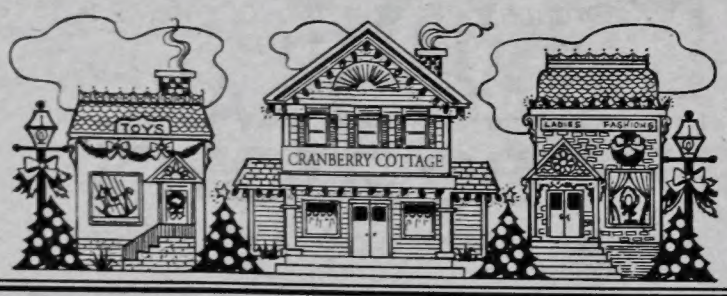
HOPE SATELLITE

HWY 35 • MINDEN

Have a safe and happy holiday season
from

CRANBERRY COTTAGE
COUNTRY STORE

Ruth, Suzanne, Christine & Margo



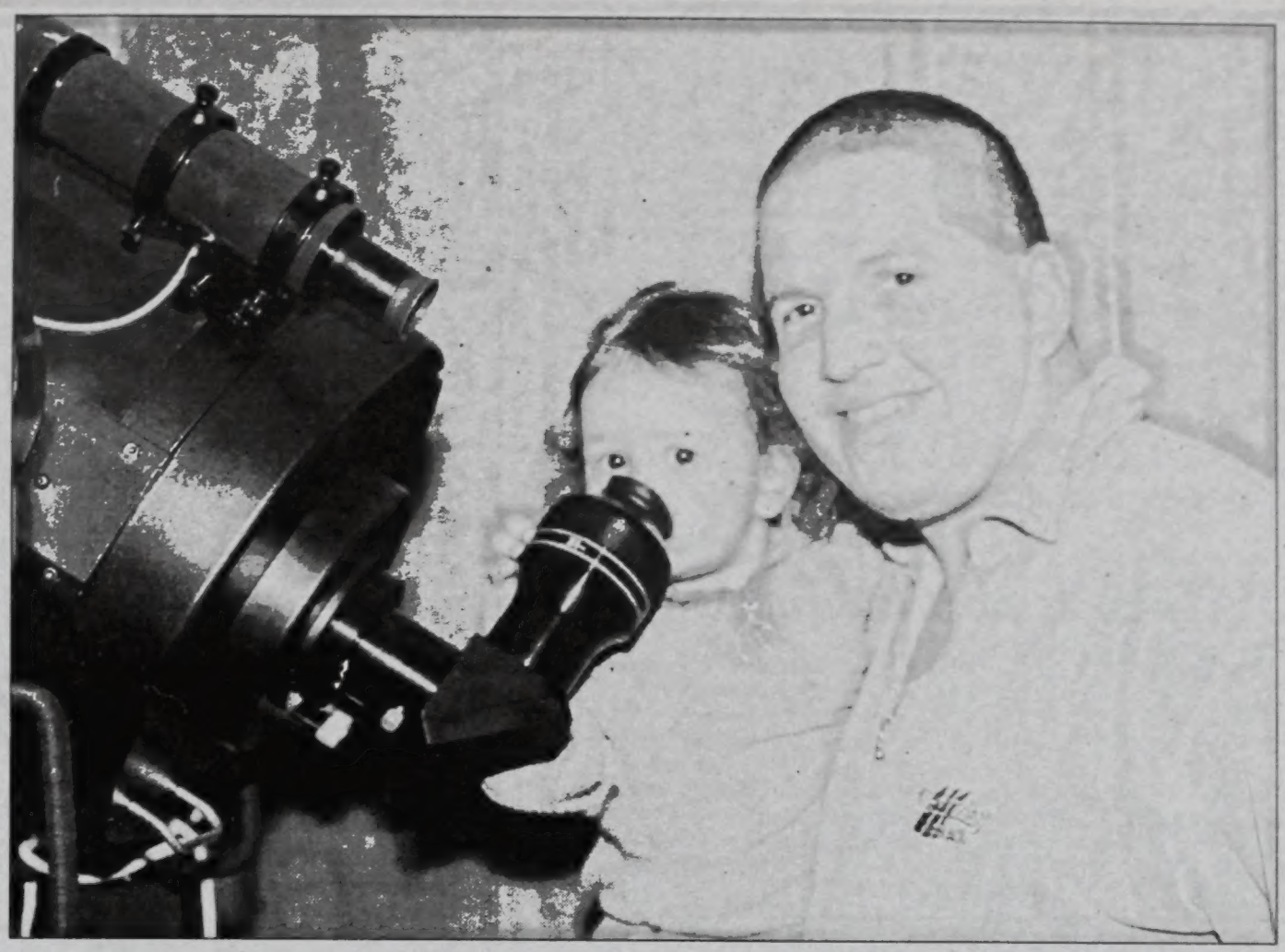
DONALD J. FINN
B.A., L.L.B.

Julia Robertson
Shirley Horsely
Linda Cummins
Glenda Burk
Susan Vasey
Karen Colliss
Gail Parish
Kim Roberts
Deanna Houghton
Monika Hutton
Sam

We Know You've Been Good...
Especially to us!
Merry Christmas and many thanks for your kind support

Tom Kovacs' very special Christmas gift

"Let heaven and nature sing!"



CATHY OLLIFFE/Echo

Tom Kovacs (and his daughter Gracie) invite people to view the partial eclipse on Christmas Day through his telescope at his home in Minden

Cathy Olliffe
NATURE WATCH

TOM KOVACS wants to spread Joy to the World in a very special way this Christmas. His heavenly gift to all people this holiday season is a peek at a Christmas Day partial solar eclipse.

He says there hasn't been a partial eclipse since 1994 and "it'll be another 12 years before we get another one." The next total solar eclipse isn't scheduled for another 17 years and that one will be centered "400 miles south of us. What we see then will be like what we'll see on Christmas Day," he told *The Echo*.

Which makes this Christmas eclipse even more wondrous.

"I think it's pretty cool," Kovacs says simply. "A lot of people will be home and will be able to see it."

But don't imagine, just because it's a partial eclipse, that you can look at it with the naked eye.

"It's no less dangerous than a total eclipse," he says. "Looking at it, especially with binoculars, will hurt you. It could burn your eyes out in a fraction of a second if you do that. It's scary – the strength of the sun is real."

The only safe way to look at an eclipse is through special solar filter material and Tom is willing to sell it to anyone who wants it at his cost – about $2 to $5 is all it'll take. What a perfect stocking stuffer, the material along with a note asking the recipient to step outside around noon!

Even better is a peek at the eclipse through Kovacs' telescope. As a Christmas gift to all astronomy buffs, he's inviting anyone and everyone interested in skywatching to his home on Christmas Day, between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., to look through the telescope. It will be set up in his yard on Reynolds Rd., just off Horseshoe Lake Rd. north of Minden. Call 286-5158 for complete directions or to inquire about the solar filter material.

Kovacs doesn't mind the possibility of sharing his Christmas Day with other people. His wife, Joanne, and his one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Gracie are familiar with his love for the heavens.

"Gracie already knows how to look through the scope," he says. "She marvels at the moon."

When she was a colicky infant, he'd take her into the yard and show her the stars in the night sky. Like everyone else, she would be calmed by the wonders of heaven and nature.

HAVE FAITH AT CHRISTMAS TIME

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." --Isaiah 7:14

May you and yours celebrate a season filled with love and miracles.

We appreciate your kind patronage and look forward to seeing you again soon.

HALIBURTON RENT-ALL

The Bedforth Family
Chris, Terri, Mathew
and staff
Jay Salvatori, Chip Trueman

Thank You
for helping
build our business

Happy Holidays

from George and Mary

GEORGE'S auto
HALIBURTON

from all of us... to all of you
the staff of the ECHO wish you and yours

season's greetings

Linda Erik Sharon Sandra
Len Martha
Sandi
Les Sue Jamie Deb

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
Your Community Newspaper Since 1884

Len Pizzey, Martha Perkins , Erik Martensson, Sandra Bishop, Les Feero, Sue Nicholson, Jamie Woodman, Sandi Luck, Linda Emmerson, Deb Deremo, Sharon Murison

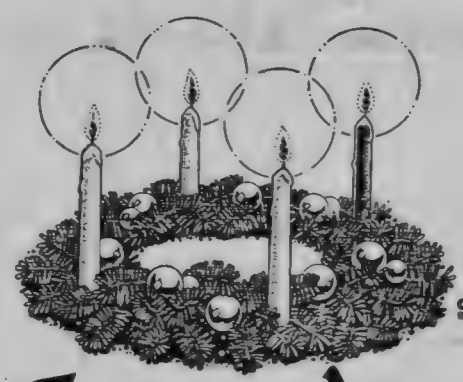
THE SOUND OF CHURCH CATS & MICE: The children of St. George's Anglican Church Sunday school in Haliburton delighted the congregation with their annual Christmas presentation last Sunday.

Jingle Bells. Jingle Bells.

Here's hoping your Christmas is a real bell ringer.
We're glad to have you as our customers.

Staff & families of

BROOKLIN CONCRETE PRODUCTS LTD.



Joyous Noel

Christmas is on the way.
And we hope its holy light
shines brightly upon everyone with peace and cheer.
We are grateful for your friendship
and loyal patronage.

from the staff and families at

Wedgewood **Marina**

5 miles North of Minden on Hwy.35 • 489-2320

WE JUST CAN'T CONTROL OUR ELVES!

We've got to let you know right now, how much we value your loyal patronage.
Merry Christmas!

HIGHLAND APPLIANCES
99 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton

Stewart, Heather, Larry & Angela

NOEL

When Christmas approaches, we turn our thoughts to you, our dear friends and patrons. We send you our heartfelt blessings and our hopes for renewed togetherness among all of nature's creations throughout the world. Thank you for your ever-loyal support and friendship.

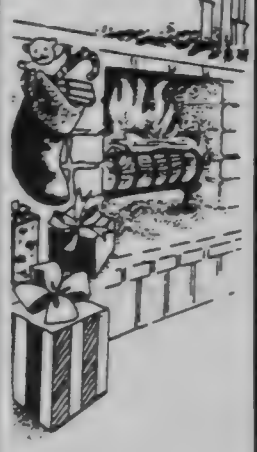
Laura & Bill Scheffee and Norm Greenfield

HIGHLAND PAINTING - HALIBURTON

Season's Greetings

Thank you for putting your trust in us

COLDWELL BANKER
WILEY REAL ESTATE



We wish you the Season's Best!

From the Management and Staff of

JOHN FRANCIS FUELS LTD.
Minden

Cathy Olliffe
NEW TRADITIONS

Let it Snow!

WHO'S CRYING NOW? Not Maria Clara Almeida. At first the 16-year-old Rotary exchange student from Brazil wasn't so thrilled when she found out she'd be spending a year in Haliburton. She comes from Natal, a city with 800,000 people, and she was hoping to travel to a similarly-sized city in Canada.

"I always would like to come to Canada, but to a big city," she told *The Echo* in charmingly accented English. "I read a letter from Rotary and it told me I was going to Haliburton, a city of 2,000. I cried so much and I didn't want to come anymore."

Geez, are we that bad?

Maria Clara explained that in Brazil, small communities tend to be poverty-stricken. So when she heard she was coming to such a small "city," she assumed she was going to be living in some sort of slum for a year. The tearful teenager was only reassured by a letter from local Rotarian Drew Carey (not the TV star), which described Haliburton's finer attributes.

She laughs when she tells the story now, as do Bill and Laura Scheffee, the Haliburton couple who have invited Maria Clara to be part of their family during part of her year here.

One of the things she loves best about being here is the snow – it's the first time in her life she's seen the white stuff and it will be her first white Christmas. "I couldn't believe it when I saw ... the snow was so huge!" And, as Laura points out, "she likes snow days!"

After the season's tremendous first snowfall, when a state of emergency was declared in Haliburton County, Maria Clara was happy to hear she didn't have to go to school the next day. When it snowed again two nights later, she turned to Laura and asked hopefully, "Another snow day?"

The one thing she doesn't like about winter is the cold. "She's cold all the time," Laura says. Even in the house. "She's always looking at the thermostat."

Getting Maria Clara dressed warmly enough for the great outdoors has also been a challenge. "It was so much work

See **Brazilian** page 13

Season's Greetings

from Gord & Donna Monk

Long MEMORIALS

MONUMENTS • MARKERS
CEMETERY LETTERING • RESTORATION

A Christmas Wish

May the true spirit of Christmas be yours, just as in the manger on that Holy Night, when the Star first shone above.

Peace and joy to your whole family from ours, all through the season and the coming year.

EAGLE LAKE FOOD TOWN
Allan, Ellenor Bagg & Family and Staff

Season's Greetings

Wishing all our friends & patrons a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

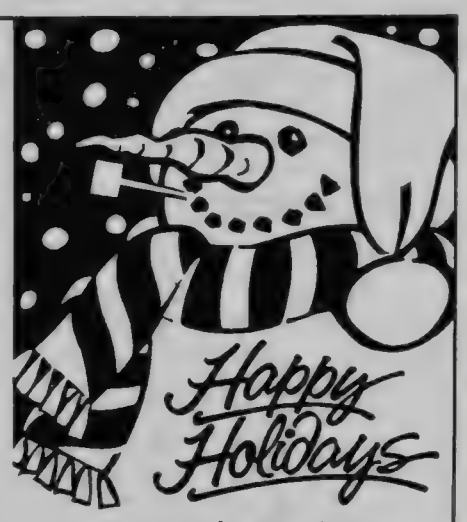
MINDEN PHARM ASSIST

I·D·A

Janet, Paul & Staff

Hawk River Construction
(Larry Hewitt)

Larry & Betty Hewitt and family
Brier Coneybeare
Ken Dovell
Chris Griffin
Kim Hamilton
Bill Hogg
Ed LaPorte
Matt McCord
Bob Merritt
Alf Milburn
Tony Miscio
Rod Neiman
Lennard Nesbitt
Warren Pilatzke
Brad Redner
Clare Ridsdale
Colin Robinson
Gord Scheffee
Dwight Sisson
Carol Stamp
Barry Thompson
Jamie Walker



Because we truly appreciate your business, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage, and extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year

Maria Clara Almeida and her new "family" gathers around the Christmas tree. That's Maria Clara (seated, centre) with friend Val Sutcliffe and "parents" Bill and Laura Scheffee.

CATHY OLLIFFE/Echo

Brazilian teenager embraces this new adventure called winter

from page 12

getting a snow suit on her," Laura chuckles.

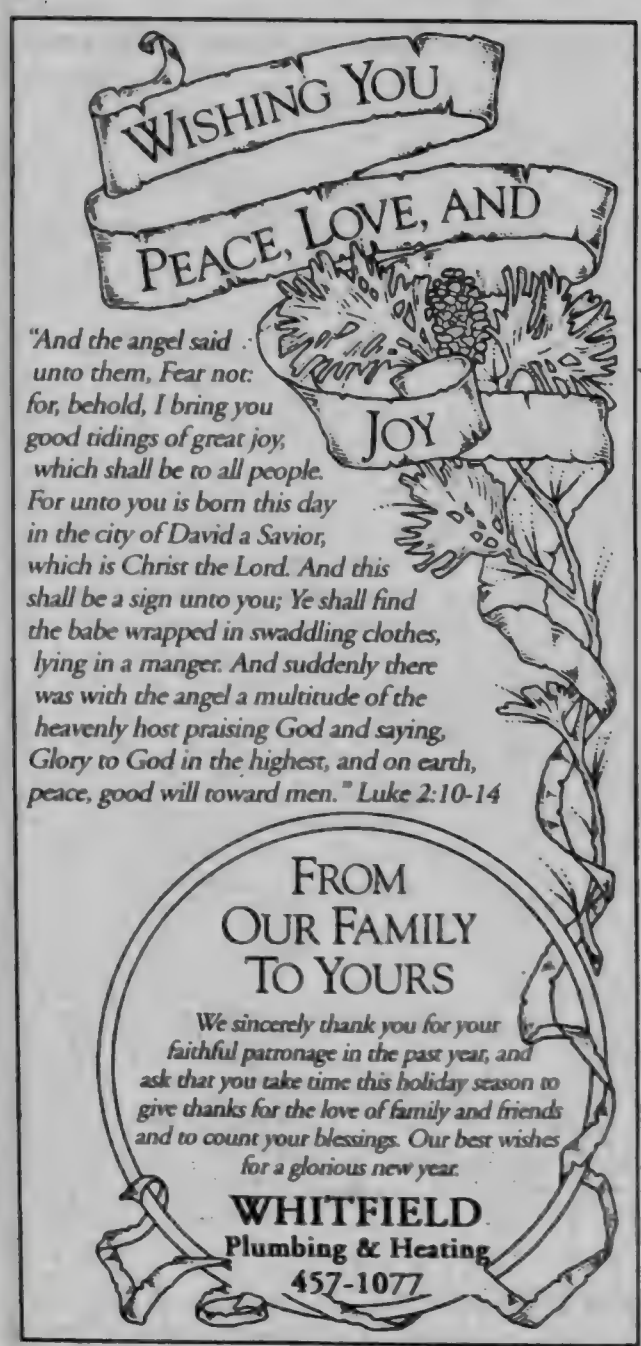
The Brazilian visitor has been a good sport, however, trying anything new that's thrown her way, including eating deer and bear meat. Bear she pronounces as good; she's not so fond of venison.

"She liked bear," Laura said, "but you know what she doesn't like? Stuffing. Turkey stuffing." In Brazil turkey at Christmas is a mainstay but bread stuffing is unheard of. What they do like to eat in Maria Clara's neck of the woods is seafood, rice, salads, panettone and, of all things, pizza with mustard and ketchup (all year round, not necessarily at Christmas).

Over the holidays there will be plenty of turkey for Maria Clara, as well as a host of activities she's never tried before, like snowmobiling, skiing and ice fishing. Bill is quite the outdoorsman and Maria Clara is game to try all the winter sports he enjoys.

The Scheffees are trying to make her holidays as full and exciting as possible because, as much as she's looking forward to her first white Christmas, Maria Clara is feeling homesick. It's hard being away from home during the holidays, especially if you're only 16 and home is so very far away.

Still, there's all that snow to play in and the infinite possibility of more snow days ... hey, they don't have those in Brazil.



Amy Brohm, Travel Agent · Janet Brock, Owner · Lynda Porter, Travel Agent · Linda Coneybeare, Asst. Manager

Absent: Mae Waddell

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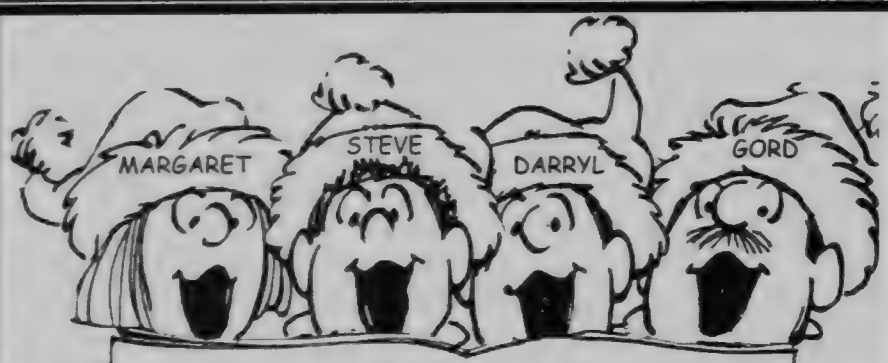

Season's Greetings

from all of us at

HUDSON HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD

MINDEN

"Serving the Highlands"

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

We're happy to have this opportunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year. Thanks!

NORTH FACE country homes

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Merry Christmas and **Happy New Year** to all our devoted customers and their "little friends"

Carl & Chris Lang
Gooderham
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Wishing you laughter, joy and all the "white stuff" this holiday season. Merry Christmas

from the Management and Staff of

GOODERHAM SERVICE CENTRE

Gooderham, Ontario

Season's Greetings

from all the staff at **V&S** HALIBURTON and **Crafts 'n More...** Over 70 Locations across Canada!

...'O Come All Ye Faithful!

At this holiest time of year, we'd like to join you and your family in giving thanks unto the Lord for his never ending love and guidance in helping each of us to find our own way.

May you discover renewed hope, encouragement and fulfillment during this Christmas season.

We thank you for your kind patronage.

Management & Staff of

Westside JUG CITY more than milk

HALIBURTON • MINDEN • FENELON FALLS

First snow for Ankelly

Cathy Olliffe

A WAY OF LIFE

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME Ankelly Armstrong has seen snow – and talk about snow!Last week Haliburton County declared a state of emergency because of the enormous amount of snow that fell. Even the most winter-hardened among us were a bit overwhelmed by the storm, so imagine how Ankelly felt.

The 28-year-old is a newly-minted Haliburtonian; having moved here four months ago from Trinidad-Tobago, the warm, warm vacation paradise off the coast of Venezuela. She'd been here before, in 1988 (in the summer) for a visit and she liked what she saw. When she decided "it was time for a change" in her life, Ankelly decided to move to Canada and live with her uncle.

Now, she knew, in an academic sense, that there would be snow come wintertime. But nothing really prepared her for what snow was really like.

"I was expecting it but the reality was different," she said. "The first morning it snowed I looked outside and it was like a postcard – it didn't look real. And then I went outside and I got a whiff of that cold air and I knew it was real all right."

Everyone has told her she has to try snowmobiling and other outdoor sports to truly enjoy winter, but Ankelly said she's more of an inside girl.

In Trinidad there are two seasons, one wet and one dry. "Both are hot." And just in case people in the Highlands think they're the only ones plagued by mosquitoes, Ankelly said, "You don't have anything to complain about." There are just way more of the biting pests from her hometown of Diego Martin, a community slightly bigger than Haliburton.

She's just thrilled about her decision to move north and is looking forward to celebrating her first Christmas in Canada, especially since she has made so many new friends at St. George's Anglican Church.

"So far people have been remarkable," she says. "Welcoming and warm and helpful."

Ankelly sings in the choir and recently enjoyed an Alpha religious course.

"To have this course reminds me of how universal God is," Ankelly said. "You know in your mind that God is the same everywhere, but this made me feel that in my heart."

There are some things she'll miss, however. In Trinidad people begin celebrating Christmas in October with "parang" (like carol singing).

She'll miss black cake, a very, very rich fruit cake, and sorrel – a drink made out of a small, red fruit not to be confused with mushrooms.

And she misses her job as a teacher. Ankelly is working on returning to that occupation – her name is on the local supply list and she may go back to university next fall.

Speaking of fall, she admits it's her favourite season in Haliburton. So dazzled was she by the beautiful colours of autumn that she took a whole roll of pictures in just a few minutes in her own backyard. "I like fall best because of the colours. They make me want to paint ... and I can't even paint!"

Perhaps she'll even take that up one day. It's a whole new world for Ankelly, with brand new opportunities, exciting challenges and – SNOW!

"I was expecting it but the reality was different," says Ankelly Armstrong of her first exposure to snow

The Reason for the Season

We invite you to visit one of our Christian churches this Christmas

St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton:
Dec 24: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
3:30 p.m.,Family Service
7 p.m., carols with choir, Xmas Communion

St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Wilberforce
Dec. 25: 10 a.m. Holy Communion Service & Baptism

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Minden
Dec 24: 8 a.m Communion
7p.m. Christmas Communion
Midnight Eucharist

St. James Anglican Church, Kinmount:
Dec. 24: 11:15 a.m. Family Eucharist
9 p.m. Christmas Communion

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Maple Lake
Dec 24: 9:15 a.m. Family Eucharist
Dec 25: 10am Family Eucharist

St. John's Anglican Church, Irondale
Dec 24: 9:30 a.m. Family Service
7 p.m. Family Service w/ carols

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Minden
Dec 24: 10:30a.m. & 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass
Dec 25: 10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass
Dec 31: 10:30 a.m. Mass
Jan. 1 10:30am New Years Mass

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Kinmount
Dec. 24: 9 a.m. & 8:30pm Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 31: 9:00am New Year's Eve Mass
Jan. 1: 9:00 New Year's Day Mass

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Haliburton
Dec 23: 7:00 p.m. 4th Sunday of Advent
Dec 24: 7:30 p.m. Carol Sing , 8 p.m. Nativity of Our Lord
Dec 30: 7:00 p.m., Holy Family of Nazareth
Dec. 31: 7:00pm Mary, Mother of God/New Year
Jan. 6/7: 7:00pm/8:30am Epiphany of Our Lord

Haliburton United Pastoral Charge
Dec. 24: 9:30am Ingoldsby United
11:15am Haliburton United
7:00pm Christmas Eve, Haliburton
Dec. 31: 9:30am Lochlin Untied
11:15am Haliburton United

Lakeside Baptist Church, Haliburton
Dec. 24: 10:00am Sunday Worship SErvice
7 p.m. Christmas Service

Eagle Lake Community Church, Eagle Lake
Dec 24: 9:45am Family Service
7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Christmas Service

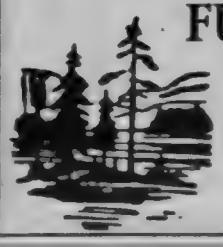
Minden United Church, Minden
Dec. 24: 11:15am & 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Maple Lake United Church, Maple Lake
Dec. 24: 10:00am Christmas Eve Service
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Zion United Church, Camarvon
Dec. 24: 9:00 a.m. Service

This feature is sponsored by:

HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME



HWY 118
HALIBURTON, ONTARIO
457-9209

The History of Christmas Trees

THE WAY IT WAS

EARLY HISTORY

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in winter. Just as people today decorate their homes at Christmas with pine, spruce and fir trees, ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries people believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits and illness.

RA, SATURN and the DRUIDS

Some ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and who wore the sun as a blazing disc in his crown. It was believed the winter came each year because Ra became ill and weak. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Across the Mediterranean Sea, the early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called Saturnolin in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs. The Saturnalia was a special time of peace and equality when wars could not be declared, when slaves and masters could eat at the same table, and when gifts were exchanged as a symbol of affection and brotherhood.

In northern Europe the mysterious Druids, the priests of the ancient Celts, also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. The fierce Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god Balder. Many historians believe that our word for Yule came from the Norse word "rol", the Gothic word "Huil" or the Saxon word "hweol", all of which means wheel and refer to the cycles of the sun.

YULE LOGS

When families bring home their Christmas tree they are following a tradition that is more than a thousand years old. "Bringing in the Yule log" was a ritual that began in Great Britain and that spread throughout Europe, eventually reaching North America. On Christmas Eve, the large central trunk of a great tree was dragged from the forest. Everyone in the family, both adults and children, helped with the job by pulling on ropes. When the log was finally brought into the house, it was thrown on the family fireplace where it burned for the 12 days of Christmas.

MIRACLE PLAYS and The PARADISE TREE

In the fourteenth century, when few knew how to read, churches held "miracle plays" to tell people in villages and towns stories from the Bible. The play that was held every December 24, which was Adam and Eve's Day, was about the Garden of Eden. The play showed how Eve was tempted by the serpent, how she picked the apple from the forbidden tree, and how the couple was expelled from Paradise.

The time of year that the play was held created a problem for the actors and organizers of the play. How do you find an apple tree with leaves on it in the middle of winter? In Germany the problem was solved by cutting down an evergreen tree, probably a spruce or pine, and tying apples onto it. As well, the tree was hung with round, white wafers to remind the audience that even though Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise, the birth of the baby Jesus would bring redemption.

The idea of a Christmas tree hung with applies amused people in Germany so much that before long many families were setting up a "Paradeisbaum", or paradise tree, in their own homes. The custom persisted long after the miracle plays were no longer performed. Ever since, red and green, the colour of the applies hanging on a pine tree, have been the official colours of Christmas.

The wafers that once hung on the Paradise tree were replaced with cookies in the form of hearts, bells, angels and stars. With time, perhaps because so many decorations were eaten before the tree was taken down, the cookies were replaced with decorations made out of thin, painted metal. When families combined the decorations on the Paradeisbaum with the candles on Martin Luther's Tannenbaum, they created the Christmas tree that is still found in homes today.

Our Holiday Wish to You

May you and yours be blessed with joy, laughter, love, good health and good friends now and throughout the coming new year. It has been our pleasure to serve you and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

HIGHLAND GLASS & CANAC KITCHENS

Jim, Beryl, staff and families

The Spirit of the Season

The spirit of giving is upon us. May you always be offered the gift of love.

Dr. Rene Benoit, Terri & Peggy

A Christmas Wish

A heartfelt thank you to all our clients for their patronage this past year.

As we believe Christmas is a time for family our office will be closed from December 22, 2000 to January 3, 2001 (inclusive).

Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ray, Lori, Laurie & Heather

Raymond Selbie & Staff

SEASON FOR GIVING

To officially launch its Christmas giving program, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation held its Light The Trees ceremonies at the Haliburton Hospital and Hyland Crest. Performing for the crowds which toured the new facilities was the Silver Flutes, above. At left, Foundation manager Dale Walker and HHHS board chairman Dave Coulson tell Santa how good they've been at helping the Highlands improve healthcare facilities.

The Joy Of
The Season
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Thank You
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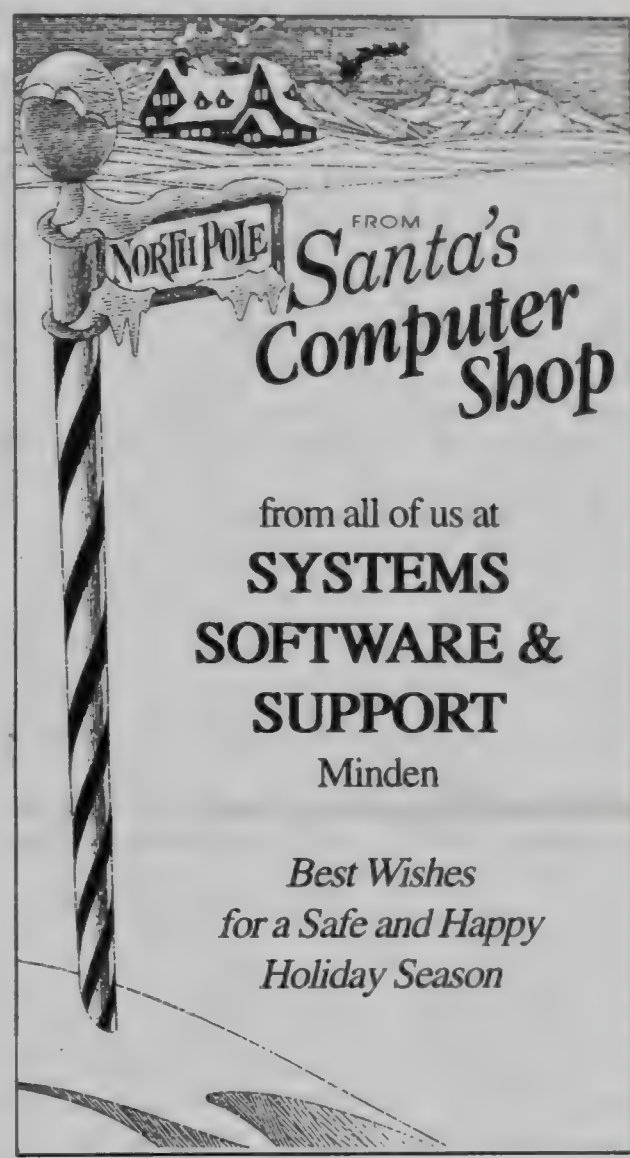
Through 2000.

MASTER'S BOOK STORE
Village Barn, Haliburton



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Santa's Computer Shop

from all of us at
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Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

After a hard day at work...
Slip into something comfortable.

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From The Staff & Families
at
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Warmest Greetings!
May holiday joy warm your heart & home.
Thank you for your patronage.

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Rick Bailey, Gary Bailey, Muriel Bailey, Jill Bailey, Ian Bailey, Scott and Emily LaRue, Jim Harrison, Ed Gibbons, Mavis Ryalen, Bob Ryalen, Hector Corneau, Myles Gartshore, Claude Shrader, Eleanor Harrison, Brian Morrison, Rob Bowden and Aaron Berg

Celebrating the

Christmas story

at Lakeside Baptist Church

The spirit of Christmas and the excitement of children combined in a memorable evening at Lakeside Baptist Church in Haliburton last Sunday. The Sunday school's annual Christmas Pageant was the culmination of long hours of preparation by the children and their parents

Photos by LEN PIZZEY/Echo

Blacks' house the most colourful place in town

Brian and Dorothy Black win Christmas lights contest

Cathy Olliffe
Special to The Echo

No doubt about it, if Santa Claus needed a second home in the Haliburton Highlands, he'd move in with Brian and Dorothy Black.

So beautifully is their Kashaga Dr. home decorated that Old St. Nick's home at the North Pole must simply pale in comparison. No wonder the Blacks won first prize, a $100 gift certificate from Haliburton Home Hardware, in The Echo's Highlands Christmas At Night decoration contest.

The trio of judges put nearly 300 km on their car Wednesday Dec. 13, looking at some of the most dazzling Christmas lights displays in the County, but their first choice, hands-down, was the incredibly colourful Black house.

"A winter wonderland!" raved judge Dorothy Robb. "Everything – the trees, garden shed, all the decorations – are just beautiful. There was a lot of work put into this."

Judge Laura Mawbey appreciated the way each tree was lit with a different colour and especially liked their unique wreaths.

Practically every evergreen tree in their front and back yards are strung with coloured lights. The larger deciduous trees are lit up with spotlights. The garden shed is dolled up like Santa's workshop and Santa himself gives a friendly wave from the very back of the backyard. A family of snowpeople plays under spotlights in the front yard and a reindeer and sleigh, complete made up of lights, prances across the snow in front of the house. On every lamp post up the Blacks' long driveway are green garlands and red boughs. An old-fashioned child's sleigh leans casually against a clump of birch trees and a bright Season's Greetings sign welcomes guests.

It's the kind of place that would send the pulse of a youngster racing with the excitement of Christmas. And it's the kind of place that swells an older heart with memories of childhood and Yuletides past.

Brian and Dorothy Black have been decorating their home since they moved in 22 years ago. It all started simply enough, with a few lights here and there. "Every year we've added something," Brian said, and now it takes him and Dorothy a full week of good weather (they start after hunting season is over) before the job of decorating is done.

If you only have time to see one beautifully decorated home this Christmas, make sure to see the Blacks'.

See **Everything** page 20

"Everything – the trees, garden shed, all the decorations – are just beautiful" ...
judge Dorothy Robb

Haliburton Home Hardware owner Ray Langdon presents Dorothy and Brian Black with a gift certificate valued at $100, frirst prize in the Highlands Christmas at Night decorating contest

from page 17

If you've got a whole evening to tour, well then, you're in for a treat. All of the 15 entries in the contest are worth a look. They show imagination, hard work and plenty of Christmas spirit. Judges had a hard time choosing the winners, but choose they did.

Second prize, a seasonal flower display in a cement urn from Country Rose and Garden Centre in Haliburton, goes to Elaine Nunn. The Nunn house, located on the north side of Hwy. 118 between West Guilford and Haliburton, is a vision in white lights, green garland and red bows. A gazebo decorated from head to toe in white lights, houses a sparkling Christmas tree – it looks like something one might find on top of a wedding cake or in the pages of Martha Stewart Living. A rose arbour covered in white lights beckons visitors to come inside and a glitzy, gloriously huge wreath lights up the yard from the garage.

Judge Dorothy commented, "The gazebo is just gorgeous, with very pretty decorations and tastefully done, like something out of a magazine."

Third prize, a subscription to The Echo, goes to Bill Gliddon. Coincidentally, Mr. Gliddon's house is located just a few doors up from The Echo office, on Cedar Ave. The judges thought the lights on his house were pretty but they were just bowled over by the nativity scene.

"This portrays the true meaning of Christmas," enthused Judge Dorothy. "Well done!"

"LOVED the nativity scene," agreed Judge Laura.

See **Honourable** page 19

PEACE ON EARTH.

May the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood echo throughout the land as we celebrate this most magical of seasons.

David, Michele, Melanie, Luke & Emily Shapiera.
Janine, Sue, Alice, Ann, Lori & Elizabeth

DAVID A.P. SHAPIERA B.A., L.L.B.
BARRISTER and SOLICITOR

Our Christmas "Statement!"

We like to give credit where credit is due.
So the first order of business
is giving special thanks to you.
You've shown us your friendship
in so many ways.
Now it's our turn to wish you
The very happiest of holidays!

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Season's Greetings

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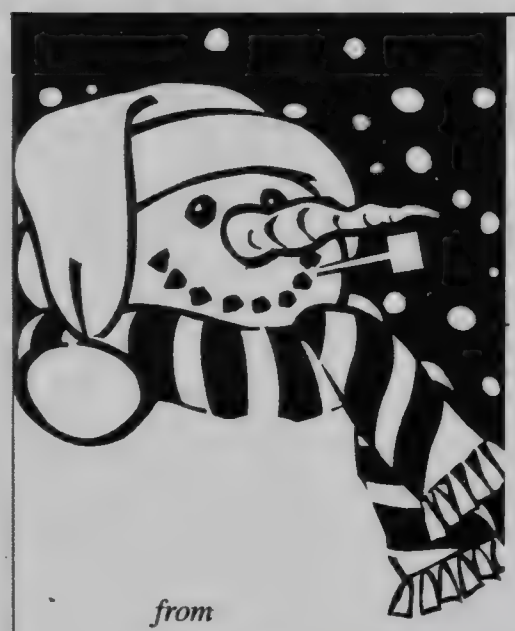


Happy Holidays

We are truly grateful for your friendship and support

from

SHAMROCK SERVICE CENTRE

Greg, Rose , Tracy & Tara Tibbitts

Honourable mentions go to the Mayhew family of Paradise Cove and to John and Linda Pentney's home on Hwy. 121

from page 18

Honourable mentions must go to the Mayhew family of Paradise Cove and to John and Linda Pentney's home on Hwy. 121, just past the EJ Motel on the south side. Both homes show a remarkable amount of lights, decorations of all kind, hard work and imagination.

Really though, all entries deserve mention. All deserve a look. And if you pack up the family for a tour of these homes, you'll notice something else. It's not just the contest entries that are dazzling – homes all over the County are dressed up in their Christmas best and they are just downright beautiful. Time and time again the judges would pass by a particularly gorgeous home and say, "Geez, it's really too bad they weren't entered in the contest."

But you can be the judge of that. To get you started, here's the complete list of contest entries. Pack some hot chocolate, sing some carols and make the most of this wonderful time of year. Merry Christmas!

The Mayhew clan, Paradise Cove Rd., east of Haliburton just off Hwy. 121 (Judge Laura said it brought out the child in her); Mrs. Goverde in Wilberforce, on the south side of Hwy. 648, across from Mapleview seniors complex (Judge Dorothy really recommends this one); Bill Gliddon, Cedar Ave., Haliburton, just up from the Echo office; Karen Draper, George St., Haliburton, four houses up from the Masonic Lodge (nice homemade reindeer); Maureen Vickery, corner of Sunnyside and Pine streets, Haliburton (the judges loved the snowshoes on her shutters); Gerald and Joan Irish, Bayshore Acres Rd., Haliburton (the pretty cape cod style house with beautifully lit shrubs in the cul de sac); Joan and Paul Brown, also on Bayshore Acres Rd., the fourth house on the left side (judges loved their toy soldier); Elaine Nunn, Hwy. 118, north side between West Guilford and Haliburton; Mrs. William Marshall, North Pine Lake Rd., West Guilford (take the road towards Rip's Sleepy Hollow – it's the gorgeous place on the hill, you can't miss it); Nancy Brink, 3805 County Rd. 6, West Guilford (the road to Eagle Lake – there's a very cute Santa here); Bill Medland, 9700 County Rd. 14, Eagle Lake (it looks like a gingerbread house, it's so cute); Irwin Gedthke, the Old Donald schoolhouse in Donald, on County Rd. 1 (you'll love the clean, white outlines of this beautiful old building); Brian and Dorothy Black, Kashaga Dr.; Bryson's Marina (not the marina, but the house behind it – the best view, and it's a pretty one, is from the Allsaw bridge on Hwy. 121); John and Linda Pentney, Hwy. 121 towards Kinmount, just past the EJ Motel (Judge Dorothy called this one "a fairyland").

the SEASON'S BEST

From the

Mill Pond RESTAURANT

Woody, Jodi, Donna, Rebecca, Krista, Phillip, Ashley, Trevor, Katrina, Brad, Anne, Lindsey, Jamie, Jordyn, and B.J.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

Mike, Glenda, Whiskey & Staff of

Bryson's Marine

HALIBURTON

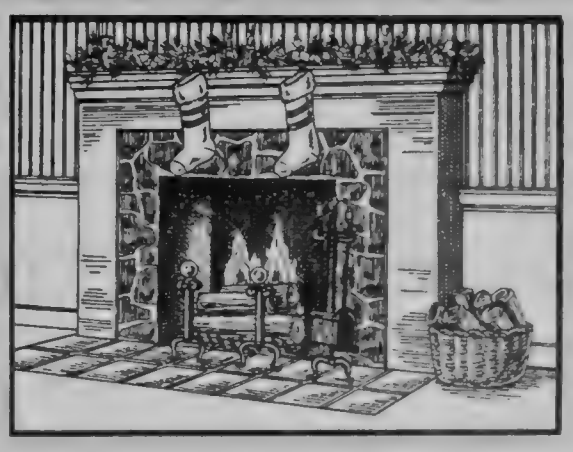
In lieu of Christmas cards a donation was made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation this year.

Season's Greetings

We would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and best wishes in the coming year.

CHRIS HODGSON M.P.P.
Haliburton-Victoria-Brock

Constituency Office
14 Lindsay St. N.
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 1T4



We join our clients and friends in imagining a kinder world, and trying to make it a little more real, each & every day.

FLOYD HALL LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS

Don, Glenn, Cathy, Judy, Josie, Betty, Kelli, Ila & Paula

Season's Greetings

Thank you for your patronage.
Have a safe and happy holiday season.

MICHELLE, MAUREEN & GRANT

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HALIBURTON 457-3753

Father's return from World War I makes a magic Christmas even more special

Martha Perkins

MEMORIES

WITH HINDSIGHT, Estelle Baldry can be glad that she remembers the Christmas of 1919 for its wonder and magic, not for the fact that in less than a month, her father would die of complications arising from being gassed in World War I.

As it is, she has nothing but smiles as she remembers that most special of Christmases.

Her father, James Ross, had just returned from Europe so already there was a festive air in the house in Hamilton as his wife, Elizabeth, made the holiday preparations.

He had not been home since 1915, even though when he signed up he told his wife not to worry, it would take the Allies only three or four months to chase the Germans out of France

"I remember the night he went on the troop train," says his daughter, who at 91, is now a resident at the Haliburton Hospital's long-term care unit. "It was pouring rain and we took the street street car. Others joined up along the way."

Overseas, Soldier Ross was with the Royal Army Medical Corps because of his background with St. John's Ambulance. "He'd go out on the battle field and bring in the wounded."

Towards the end of the war, it would be Mr. Ross who was wounded, gassed in France. He was sent to an army hospital to convalesce before being finally shipped home a year after the war ended.

Just as his eldest daughter remembered his leaving, she also remembered his coming home. More than once, her mother had taken Estelle and her youngest daughter May to the train station, only to be disappointed not to find her husband among the crowd on the platform.

Here they were, back at the train station again, hoping this time they would leave as a family of four.

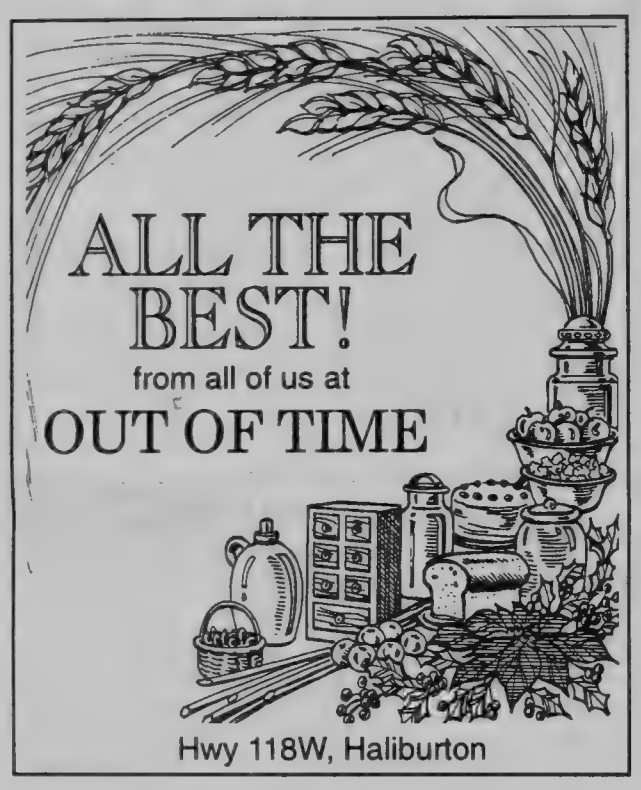
"I remember standing there with other ones," Mrs. Baldry says. "My mother said he was so pleased I knew him."

On Christmas Eve day, the two young girls could tell by the hustle and bustle at the house that something special was going to happen that night (and this was before Santa Claus became famous for his nocturnal visit.)

Sure enough, their anticipation turned into awe and wonder.

"I remember them opening the sliding doors between the dining room and parlour and here was this lovely tree, lit with candles. I can see it now, just

See Candlelit page 22



Season's Greetings

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Geoff & Lise

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Haliburton Boat Covers and Awnings

Yuletide Greetings

The Staff & Families of

CHURKO ELECTRIC

would like to thank everyone for their patronage this past season.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

Greetings of the Season

Here's hoping your holiday delivers an abundance of cheer.

We appreciate your support throughout the past year.

CAMPBELL'S GARDEN CENTRE & FLOWER SHOP

MINDEN

Anne, Brad, family & all our staff

Wishing you

Happy Holidays

Many thanks for your patronage

Rachel's

HOME BAKERY

2 LOCATIONS - HALIBURTON & MINDEN

MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

"I can see it now, just thinking about it, just as plain as if it was today," says Estelle Baldry, a resident at the Haliburton Hospital's long-term care unit.

Candlelit tree a glorious sight

from page 22

thinking about it, just as plain as if it was today."

She smiles at the memory before the smile quickly fades and she says, "Gee, it was only a couple of weeks after that he got pneumonia and died."

It was devastating to the family, not that Mrs. Ross let her daughters know it at the time. "I knew she was having a tough time of it" but it wasn't until years later that Mrs. Ross admitted how difficult it was to be raising two daughters in a place where she had no relatives – she and her husband had both been born in Scotland – and at a time when there was no safety net to cushion their fall.

Mrs. Baldry doesn't remember many other Christmases from her youth. She thinks they didn't have Christmas at home, but rather went to an uncle's in Hamilton. This uncle and aunt would give the girls clothes for a present, and Mrs. Baldry can remember being delighted with a nightgown with a tatting top. "In those days we were wearing corsets," she reminds her visitor.

Shortly after young Estelle married Arnold Baldry, the Depression hit and they survived on the $30 a month he earned. "He was the only one on the block getting any kind of work and we were happy. For Saturday night we'd get together and play cards and have a great time. No one thought we were poor."

Today, her son Ross and his wife Marj host the family Christmases at their home on Loon Lake. "Marj goes all out for doing things," Mrs. Baldry says of what she can expect for Christmas 2000. "I've got a happy family."

Season's Greetings

Kirsten, Barry, Donna, Gord, Mac and Alex

THE MONK & CRAY FAMILIES

We're happy to have this oppoortunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year and in the new year ahead. Thank you!

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Christmas tree makes its first appearance in Canada in 1781

The first Christmas tree in Canada was set up in Sorel, Quebec in 1781 by Baron Friederick von Riedesel.

The baron, who was born in Germany, selected a handsome balsam fir from the forests that surrounded his home and decorated it with white candles.

The next recorded Christmas tree appeared in Halifax in 1846 when William Prior, a local merchant, cut down an evergreen and decorated it with glass ornaments imported from Germany to please his German wife.

After that, the custom spread quickly as German and British pioneers settled throughout the growing nation.

ERIK MARTENSSON/Echo

1st Haliburton Rangers Amelia Ambridge, Erin Burtch and Lyndsay O'Mara decorate the "Christmas Wish Tree" at the CIBC in Haliburton. The Rangers, in co-operation with the bank and the 4Cs, encouraged people to take an angel off the tree and purchase a gift for the child indicated on the back of the angel. Several organizations, such as the home builders and OPP, also organized toy drives for gifts to be included in the 4Cs' Christmas hampers.

Season's Greetings

It is always a pleasure and privilege to be of service to you, and we are deeply grateful for your friendship and patronage.

HALIBURTON HOME hardware

Kevin Clarry, Sue Trepanier, David Muenzel, Claudette O'Neil, Laura Mawbey, Doug Olliffe, Susan Lindsey, Cheryl Lee, Fred Mawbey, Celeste Butz, Andrew Brown, Meredith Brown, Adrienne Clark, Christine Hayes, Dan Jung, Dustin Prindiville, Raymond Langdon

O Tannenbaum says it all

The German Folk song, "O Tannenbaum", says:
Not only in the summer's glow
But 'mid the winter's frost and snow
O faithful pine, O faithful pine,
You're true and green forever.

As it has for centuries, the evergreen still symbolizes our belief in renewed life and the hope and faith that lives in all mankind, regardless of race or creed. It is a symbol of joy and a delight to all.

Wesley

On the way to Christmas

We'd like to express our appreciation for your support and wish everyone a very happy season!

Wayne & Wesley deJong

NEWBATT'S
Furniture and Appliances
2 OAK AVENUE, HALIBURTON 457-2912

LAIDLAW

Many Thanks For Your Loyal Patronage From The Management And Staff Of

LAIDLAW
Education Services

The more youth change, the more they stay the same...

We thought you might enjoy these insights into youths' behaviour from the 1971 Ridley College Christmas card.

Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us

Ecclesiastes, 1, 10.

It was ever thus:
Youth is disintegrating. The young people of the land have disrespect for their elders and contempt for authority in every form. Vandalism is rife, and crime of all kinds is rampant among youth.

An Egyptian priest, circ. 2,000 B.C.

I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on the frivolous youth of to-day.

Hesiod, circ. 800 B.C.

Our youth have an insatiable desire for wealth; they have bad manners and atrocious customs regarding dressing their hair and what garments or shoes they wear.

Plato, circ. 350 B.C.

The students are beyond control and their behaviour is disgraceful. They come blustering into the lecture-rooms like a troop of maniacs and up-set the orderly arrangements . . . Their recklessness is unbelievable and they often commit outrages which ought to be punished by law . . .

St. Augustine, circ. 425 A.D.

If you're looking for something to do over the Christmas holidays, the local arenas have several public skating days. It's a terrific family activity and a fun way to burn off some of those chocolate-laden calories. There are arenas in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce. Here, Jenna Feero and her cousin Josie try out their new skates at the Dysart arena during the figure skating club's Christmas celebration.

HAVE A BALL!

We hope the holidays are as much fun for you as serving you is for us

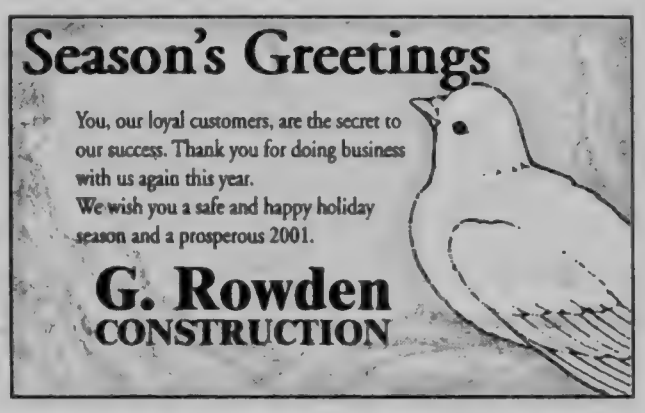
Happy celebrating and thank you for your continued support

Brewers Retail Inc.

Season's Greetings

You, our loyal customers, are the secret to our success. Thank you for doing business with us again this year.
We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2001.

G. Rowden CONSTRUCTION



All Signs Point To A Merry Christmas

Hope your holiday is a real delight.

EAGLE LAKE ADVENTURES BAIT & TACKLE
Terry, Sharon, Brittany Griffin

Greetings of the Season

It is you, our very special friends, who have put the "Happy" in our "Holidays" and we thank you very much!
At this most joyous time of year, we extend to you and your family best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.
We look forward to your continued patronage and invite you to visit us again soon.

The Management and Staff of
SID STAMP FUELS LTD.
Minden 286-1088

Brian & Dorothy Black
Lloyd Harrison, Albert Foster, Judy Hardy, Jennifer Anderson, Bryan Hughes, Jeff Black, Jamie Jones, Gord Ryckman, Tim Turcotte, Christina Black

A Very Merry Christmas!

To all our friends and customers, thank you for your continued support.

Bob & Joan Mann
Highlands Printing & Publishing

Christmas Blessing

May the light of His love shine on you and your loved ones during this holy season.
We feel truly blessed by the gift of your friendship.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from VIDEO CITY
Doug, Sonia, Virginia, Monique, Lianna, Josh & Candace

A TREE FOR CHRISTMAS

Ryan and Jennifer enjoy the snow

Steve Galea

WALK SOFTLY

The cottage road descends towards a distant, frozen lake. It's a fine route for a winter walk - ahead is a patchwork of gleaming white reflection and blue-gray shadow. Postcard perfect, not a house or car in sight.

Tracks stitch across the hard-packed snow -- of busy red squirrels, wandering grouse, meandering deer, prowling fox, and, most recently, of two carefree children and a sled set loose upon the silent landscape with their slowpoke father in tow.

We pass through a forest rimed by frost and powdered by the whiteness of winter. Conifers and hardwoods edge this unspoiled, ivory ribbon like festive lace, and they mute all sounds except those of the innocent laughter that somehow rises above the tree tops. For the first time this year, I'm feeling the spirit of the season.

A raven soars against a crisp cerulean sky, blue jays move through in search of their next meal, and chickadees flit busily from tree to tree. In the distance a woodpecker taps a staccato beat.

Jenny and Ryan notice none of these things. Neither did I at that age.

To them, this walk is merely reason to slide down a hill and to know the inexplicable exhilaration of speed without purpose. Each wild sleigh run ends in a snow bank or a fish-tailed, child-spilling wipe-out and they giggle and look to me for approval.

I nod, but my thoughts are lost in Christmases past.

It isn't hard to recall that not so long ago, I was dragging a sled and wiping a runny nose with my sleeve. The memories return as blurred impressions, only the highlights are clear, but they make me smile, nevertheless. Childhood and Christmas go hand in hand.

Ah, but the years fly.

We're here to look for a Christmas tree - one small enough to fit in the space allotted, but big enough to make these children smile each time they pass it. It needn't be perfect, says Jenny. We will make it so.

See Suddendly page 27

SEASON'S GREETINGS
and best wishes in the New Year from the staff & families of
MISCIO CONSTRUCTION
Haliburton

WARMEST GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

Mike's Gun Repair
Loon Lake
Thank you for your business during the year!

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU

Best wishes and many thanks to our loyal customers and friends.
Laurie & Lauren
LJ's Fashions
Haliburton

We've Pulled Over...
To wish you the happiest holidays ever.
Drive safely, and thanks for steering in our direction.

HAPPY DAZE
AUTOMOTIVE
MINDEN

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF AT SIRCH
Thank you to all our volunteers, clients and supporters for the many ways that you have helped us help others.
We couldn't have done it without you!
Donations always appreciated: SIRCH, Box 687, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 705-457-1742

Tis the Season
It's such a treat to be able to extend our sincere thanks for your business over the past year.
Our very warmest wishes to you all.
May you have a truly joyful holiday season.
HIGHLANDS ACCOUNTING
Minden

Suddenly, she sees our tree. It's not full, tall or round. Not a tree-lot tree at all. Yet, it's wild and beautiful.

from page 1

Christmas, it seems, marks the years. Ryan, boisterous and rosy cheeked, has celebrated six. Jennifer, pretty as a picture, has brightened the last thirteen. At home, their sister Carmen awaits Santa for the second time, and keeps mother happily occupied. I count these blessings as I walk, mesmerized by the beauty of the day. White Christmases are the best kind.

I look to the children. In them, there's still a beautiful innocence. This day will be special. Maybe they don't know it yet, but I do. It will be another pleasant memory, with the rough edges softened by time. Its value will increase with the years.

We leave the road and slip down a narrow trail. I've been here before. It's a pretty place made better by snow. Some places were created with winter in mind, and this is one.

We walk, and come across fresh deer tracks. Jenny hushes Ryan, hoping to catch a glimpse of one. It works for two minutes, then he's off and running, whooping with each slide down each little slope. Jen rolls her eyes and smiles at me.

Suddenly, she sees our tree. It's not full, tall or round. Not a tree-lot tree at all. Yet, it's wild and beautiful.

"Are you sure?" I ask.

There is no doubt in her mind.

I call Ryan over. His approval will make it official.

He appraises the tree with the savvy eye of a six-year old. "It's got no back to it," he says.

"It'll fit perfect against the wall," says Jen.

"Sure," he says. Then he takes off again, belly-flopping on the sled and travelling a full six feet. He's laughing like he just won the lottery.

On the way home, I'm dragging a sled complete with tree and little boy. Uphill. Jen helps and rolls those big brown eyes. I remind her of the times that I pulled her.

"I bet Santa will put a lot of presents under this tree," says my little boy.

"Ryan," I ask, "what's Christmas all about?"

"It's God's birthday," he says.

"Well, then why do we get presents?" I respond.

"Because we're all invited to the party," he says.

I laugh and hurry pulling him along. After all, we don't want to late for the party.

A Christmas Wish

A heartfelt thank you to all our patients for their support this past year.

As we believe Christmas is a time for family our office will be closed on December 25, 26 & 29 and January 1-5 2001 (inclusive).

Wishing everyone a healthy and Happy New Year.

Bob, Sue, Donna & Lisa

Dr. R. Hindman, Dental Office

Merry Christmas!

Trailside House

BED & BREAKFAST

THANK YOU

To everyone who has made us feel so welcome and at home, our grateful thanks and warmest wishes for a Happy Christmas and bountiful New Year!

Jack Bush & Elaine Bell
Trailside House Bed & Breakfast

Hairstyling in your Home

We would like to wish all my clients and our friends A Very Merry Christmas and all the Best for 2001!

Laurie, Ross, Bradford, Rachel, Heidi and Jessie

How like the serenity of a silent, snow-clad woodland, is the peace that comes to the heart that finds the true meaning of Christmas.

We Wish a Happy Holiday Season for You and Your Family.

Kim Emmerson, Lois Emmerson, Sheila Cowen, Rod Consack, Glenn Urquhart, Cleve Roberts, Tony Salvatori, Gary Badger, Dave Sadler, Ryan Emmerson, Garry Cooper, Janice Ryckman, Greg Moore, Sue Hillier, Jessie Stovin, William Day, Norm Rainey Stacey Bunn, Don Stromberg, Adam Clarkson

castle building centre

EMMERSON LUMBER LTD.

OUR WINTER & HOLIDAY OPERATING HOURS WILL BE:
7:30 - 5:00pm Monday to Friday
9:00 - 1:00pm Saturday

Closed December 25, 26, and January 1

E-mail: emmlbr@halhinet.on.ca www.emmersonlumber.com

The "Season of Giving" goes online

FOR MANY CANADIANS, the "season of giving" means more than putting gifts under the tree. The holiday season is also a time when many individuals and businesses get into the Christmas spirit by making donations to charity. But with more than 77,000 charities in Canada, choosing a cause to support can be a little overwhelming.

Canadians can now turn to the internet for help. Web-savvy donors can research causes and keep up-to-date on the latest activities of their charity of choice, in addition to being able to make online donations.

Charity.ca, Canada's first charity portal, has been connecting donors to Canadian charities since May of this year. Charity.ca accepts online donations and issues electronic receipts for more than 300 member charities, including prominent Canadian charities like The Arthritis Society and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. With more than 2,000 charities either registered or in the process of being registered, the number of member charities online will grow significantly by Christmas.

"Canadians want to make an informed decision on where they invest their money," says Richard W Ivey, a prominent Canadian philanthropist and the founder of Charity.ca. "Our web portal links donors to the charities and causes that are important to them."

Tips for giving wisely

• Be an informed donor. Learn as much as you can about the charity you are considering. An online resource like Charity.ca is a great source of information to help Canadians make an informed decision.

• Budget for giving. Work your giving goals into your financial planning. Earmarking money for the causes important to you lets you give regularly and without worry.

• Keep your financial receipts in order. Charities issue receipts for most donations. Make sure you obtain one for income tax purposes, as donations to charities are tax deductible. To assist you in identifying your tax credits, you can use software like Quick Tax from Intuit Inc.

• Give your time – volunteer! To determine whether the work the charity is doing is effective and efficient, get involved! Volunteer for a committee, attend events, help in any way you can.

IT'S CHRISTMAS & YOU SNOW IT!

We would never have been able to weather the tough times without your patronage. Thanks for helping build our business!

HALIBURTON SEARS

Allan, Lyndell & Family

Best Wishes & Many Thanks

We appreciated your friendship & support.

From: Ray, Yolanda and Staff at

Village DONUTS & Café

Season's Greetings

to all our customers, sub-contractors, suppliers & friends. Best wishes for the new year.

KEVIN PHILLIPS CONSTRUCTION

Kevin & Cheryl

Peace On Earth!

May the harmony of the winter landscape bring renewed hope for understanding and worldwide peace. Merry Christmas and many thanks.

HOLDEN TRUSS

HOLDEN TRUSS LTD.

INDUSTRIAL PARK RD., HALIBURTON

705-457-1687

Rexall

Joy to all!

It's a real pleasure to have this opportunity to extend our best wishes to our many good friends and patrons during the holiday season... we appreciate your loyalty.

Merry Christmas!

Pharmacist - Manager - Margaret Wing
Manager - Janice Chambers
Carol Thompson, Candy Robinson, Kelly Power, Katie Carey, Jennifer Carpenter, Bev Sisson, Melanie Howitt

Highland Street
Haliburton
457-1112

May your home be blessed by the glory of His love this holy season, and may His good graces follow you wherever you go.

Merry Christmas

and many thanks for your patronage

Buon Natale e un Felice Nuovo Anno

Italo & Sandy
754-9141

THE CORNER CAFE RISTORANTE • LIC. LLBO

WEST GUILFORD

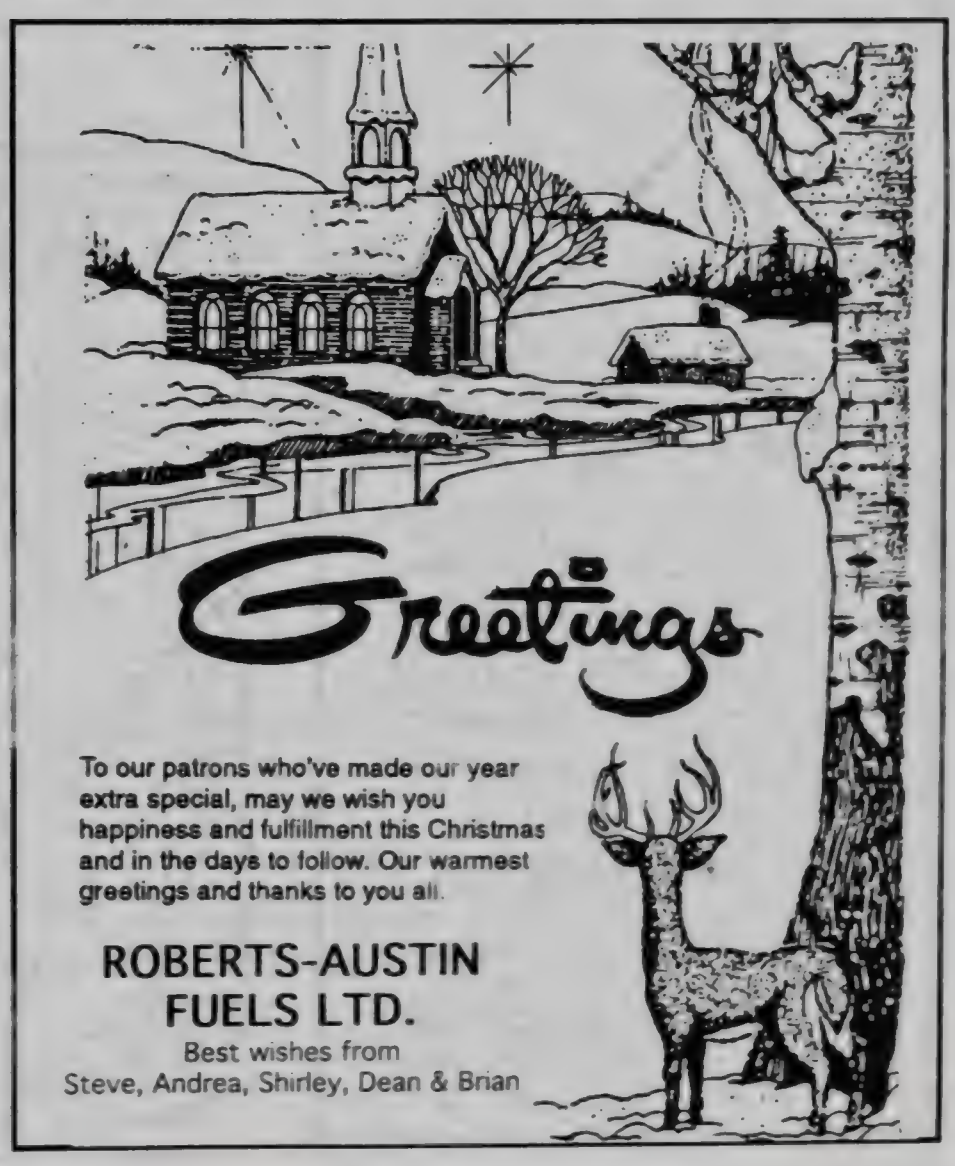
THE GIFT OF WATER

In the Spirit of Christmas

Christmas is a time for giving, but giving doesn't necessarily have to mean brightly wrapped presents under a tree. Thanks to the generous spirits of people throughout the year, Help A Village Effort (HAVE) was able to pay for 27 water wells in India and Nigeria.

"It was our best year ever," says Ron Reid, who helped organize HAVE's primary fundraiser, the Walk for Water. Although HAVE is a Haliburton-based charitable organization, this past June Walks were also held in Newfoundland and Peterborough

The value of the gift of safe, clean and easily accessible drinking water cannot be under estimated. These photos show the successful construction of wells in India's Orissa province. Beside one of them is a memorial to the late Rod Henderson, a West Guilford native who was a staunch supporter of HAVE.



PEACE
Greetings of the Season
To our many customers and friends we offer our sincere best wishes for a joyous Yuletide
Archie, M.J. & Chris
HIGHLANDS SATELLITE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Management & Staff
DAWSON
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
HIGHLAND STREET
• AUTO • HOME / COTTAGE
• BUSINESS • LIFE • RRSP
Arthur Dawson
Maureen Smith • Cindy Riddell
457-2411
"An Insurance Broker To Serve You"

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE!
We just wanted to say "Merry Christmas", and "thanks" for calling on us this past year. We appreciate your kind patronage.
CHURKO HOME FURNITURE
Adam Payne, Kyle Robinson, Andrea & Jim Churko

Have a merry veggie Christmas

Cathy Olliffe
Special to The Echo

For 34 years Janice Kretchman has eaten turkey with the best of them.

This year will be different. This year, Christmas won't mean turkey with all the trimmings, ham or even goose. This year, Kretchman is having a very veggie holiday season.

The Kawagama Lake cottager (her parents bought the Dorset-area retreat before she was even born) is a newly converted vegetarian. She "gave up meat for Lent" last spring. "I'm not as religious as some of my friends," she quipped. "They gave up chocolate."

The decision to not consume anything that was once breathing is something she felt comfortable with and when Lent was over, she decided not to return to her days of steak and chicken pot pie.

While she is happy with her life as a vegetarian so far, Kretchman admits it's a daily challenge to make sure she is eating a balanced diet with lots of protein. Holidays can be even more challenging, especially when you're used to a traditional Christmas dinner.

So what is this first-time vegetarian cooking for Christmas?

A quiche, of course. "It's something you can dress up more than a regular meal – the adults want something dressier for Christmas," Kretchman said. "I think it's fine to eat something that has a bit more fat than usual, with real butter and cream."

Basic Tart Dough
From Taunton's Fine Cooking, Nov. 2000 issue, adapted by Janice Kretchman

Before making the dough, check your filling recipe for the size shell you'll need. To make enough dough for a 10-inch porcelain quiche dish or a 10 1/2- or 11-inch metal tart pan with removable bottom, measure your ingredients using the first list below. To make enough dough for a 12-inch porcelain quiche dish or a 12 1/2-inch metal tart pan with removable bottom, use the second ingredient list. The method is the same for both.

For one 10- to 11-inch tart shell:

Janice Kretchman with quiche

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup whole wheat flour
1/4 tsp plus a pinch of salt
9 tbsp unsalted butter, cut into small pieces and chilled
4 tbsp ice water

For one 12- to 12 1/2-inch tart shell:
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 tsp salt
12 tbsp unsalted butter, cut into small pieces and chilled
6 tbsp ice water

To make the dough:
In a food processor, combine the flour, salt and butter. Using short pulses, process until the mixture resembles oatmeal. Add the ice water and pulse quickly until the mixture begins to come together – don't let it actually form a ball. Transfer the mixture to a lightly floured surface and gather it into a ball with your hands. Gently flatten the ball into a smooth disk about 1 1/2 inches thick and wrap it in plastic or foil. Refrigerate until firm enough to roll, at least one hour.

To roll and shape the shell:
Roll the dough on a lightly floured surface into a circle about 1/8 inch thick. Roll the dough over your rolling pin and lift it over the tart pan. Unroll it loosely over the tart pan and gently press the dough into the

See page 31

This brings a wish at Christmas time that you always will be blessed, with the Peace and Hope this season brings and with lasting happiness.
TISCHLER WOODWORKING
Andy, Kelly, Bob, Peter, Dave, John and Andris

Peace & Joy
May glad tidings be yours this holiday season.
from the Management & Staff
RONNIE VIEW INN

PEACE ON EARTH.
May the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood echo throughout the land as we celebrate this most magical of seasons.
From your friends at
Cordell CARPET

from page 30

pan without stretching it. Fold a bit of the excess dough inward to form a lip. Roll the rolling pin back and forth over the pan. Remove the severed dough from the outside of the pan. Unfold the lip of dough and press it down into the sides of the pan to form a double thickness. Prick the bottom of the shell all over with a fork, cover with aluminum foil, and freeze for at least 30 minutes and as long as overnight. At this point, the shell can also be wrapped and kept frozen for up to two weeks.

To partially bake the shell:

Arrange a rack in the centre of the oven and heat the oven to 425 degrees F. Remove the foil, line the frozen shell with parchment or fresh foil, fill it with dried beans or pie weights, and put it on a baking sheet. Bake until the sides are set, about 12 min. Remove the parchment and weights and continue to bake until the dough is just beginning to brown lightly,k another six to eight minutes. Cool on a wire rack until needed.

Alsatian Onion Tart

This is a classic French regional tart with good Gruyère and "melted"onions, bound with a savoury custard. For an interesting variation, brush the prebaked tart shell with a thin layer of Dijon mustard (Janice did) or add 1 tbsp of finely minced tarragon to the custard (Janice didn't). Be sure to buy the best-quality Gruyère. Serves four to eight for supper, eight as a starter.

2 tbsp vegetable oil
2 tbsp butter
4 medium onions, cut in half and very thinly sliced
A sprinkling of sugar
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Gus Olliffe gets a taste of the goodies

3 large eggs
1 1/4 cups heavy cream
A tiny pinch nutmeg (preferably fresh grated)
1/3 cup finely grated Gruyère cheese
1 partially baked tart shell

Heat the oil and butter in a cast-iron or other heavy-based 10- to 12-inch skillet. Add the onions and sugar, season with salt and pepper, and sauté over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until lightly browned. Lower the heat and continue to cook the onions until very soft and evenly browned, stirring frequently, another 30 to 40 minutes; you may need to add a little more oil.

Heat the oven to 375 degrees F. If using a tart pan with a removable bottom, put it on a baking sheet. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs and cream. Season with 3/4 tsp salt, a scant 1/2 tsp pepper and the nutmeg. Add the drained onions and half of the cheese and blend thoroughly. Fill the prepared tart shell with the onions and custard. Top with the remaining cheese and bake until the tip of a knife comes out clean and the top of the tart is puffed and brown, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool for at least 15 to 20 minutes before serving.

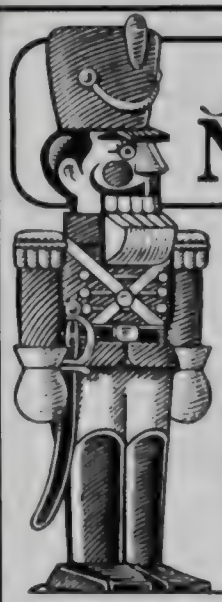
Spicy Fruit Cup
From foodvision.com

Use a sharp knife to remove the peels from the oranges, taking care to remove all of the bitter-tasting while membrane. Cut up the oranges over a bowl to catch any juice

Serves four.

8 oz pineapple chunks (juice packed), undrained
1/2 cup orange juice
2 tbsp dry white wine
1/8 tsp ground cinnamon
dash of ground nutmeg
2 medium oranges, peeled and sectioned
1 pear, cored and sliced
1 cup fresh strawberries, halved
or
1 cup Christmas grapes, seeded and halved

In a mixing bowl combine the undrained pineapple, orange juice, wine (if desired), cinnamon and nutmeg. Carefully stir in the oranges, pear and strawberries or grapes. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour or up to four hours.



Joyous NOEL

SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM THE FAMILY & STAFF AT

Golden Stationers
Home & Office Supplies. Leather & Luggage
Main Street - Minden - beside I.D.A.
(705) 286-2110 Fax: (705) 286-1827

MINDEN AUTO CARE

Dave & Corinne, Rick & Johnathon

We wish all our customers Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year Thank you all for your support

Dear Customer:
The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress and each Holiday Season affords us the opportunity to extend our best wishes to those whose friendship we value.

We greatly appreciate your good will and support and look forward to continued good relations in the future.

Again we say "Thank You" and may the happiness and good cheer of the holiday season be yours throughout the New Year.

From all of us at
NORTH STEEL
Hans Walter

NORTH STEEL

In order to give our employees a well deserved rest and time to spend with their families and friends, we wish to inform you that we will be closed from noon on Friday December 22nd until 8:00am on Monday, January 8th, 2001.

Decadent, Delicious, December Desserts

BY ANNE CREELMAN

ALTHOUGH I PERSONALLY don't eat much dessert, I recognize that others enjoy the soothing, therapeutic treat that a sweet can bring to the end of a lovely meal or with a cup of coffee and some friends. I'm not trying to be virtuous, I just don't have a sweet tooth. I do, however, like to create an array of confections to simply watch people sit back, relax and enjoy each other's company and the season. Here are a few offerings you may want to try out during the holidays or even all year round.

CHOCOLATE SOUFFLE TORTE

A little (?) something for the chocolate lovers on your guest list.

1 cup whole toasted almonds, cooled
1/3 cup plus 3 tbsp. granulated sugar
1/2 cup butter
1 lb bittersweet chocolate
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tbsp vegetable oil
6 eggs, separated
Confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup toasted sliced almonds
Almond whipped cream:
1 cup chilled heavy cream
1 tsp almond extract
2 tbsp granulated sugar

Beat together the cream, almond extract, and granulated sugar. Refrigerate the almond whipped cream until cake is ready to serve.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease and flour the sides of a 9" springform pan (or line the bottom and sides with parchment paper then grease with butter). In a food processor, process the whole almonds and 3 tablespoons of the granulated sugar until the nuts are finely ground. In a heavy saucepan or double boiler, melt the butter over medium-heat. Add the chocolate, cream, and oil, and whisk until smooth, Stir in the almond mixture, and cool the mixture slightly. With an electric mixer, beat the egg whites on high speed until they stand in soft peaks. Gradually add 1/3 cup granulated sugar, and beat until the eggs stand in stiff peaks. In a separate bowl, beat the egg yolks with a whisk until they are pale yellow, about 5 minutes. Gradually beat the chocolate mixture into the egg yolks. Fold in the egg whites. Pour the batter into prepared pan. Bake 35 minutes or until the sides crack and puff (a cake tester inserted in the center will come out moist with the batter). Cool the cake on a rack, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Loosen the cake from the sides of the pan with a knife, and remove the cake from the pan. Dust the cake with confectioners' sugar and sprinkle with the toasted almonds. Serve chilled or at room temperature with almond whipped cream. Makes 12-14 very rich servings.

OVERNIGHT WINTER FRUIT BOWL

Something that's very fresh tasting and kid-friendly.

3 egg yolks, beaten
2 tbsp white sugar
2 tbsp white vinegar
2 tbsp pineapple juice or syrup from a can
1 tbsp butter
salt to taste
2 cups seeded grapes or drained pitted cherries
2 cups pineapple chunks, drained
2 cups mandarin oranges, drained
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 cup whipping cream, whipped

Combine the first six ingredients in a double boiler. Cook and stir until thick. Do Not Boil! Fold this cooled sauce into the whipped cream, the fold into the fruit and marshmallows. Place in a large serving bowl and garnish the top with additional fruit. Place in refrigerator for 24 hours. Serve cold. Serves 8-10.

CHOCOLATE CREAM PUFFS

These are great because they can be made ahead, frozen with the ice-cream already in them and pulled out when needed.

Basic Cream Puff Recipe:
1 cup water
1/ cup butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp salt
4 eggs

Place the butter, water and salt in a large saucepan and bring to rolling boil. Reduce heat and add flour all at once, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon until the mixture forms a smooth ball that leaves the sides of the pan. Remove from heat. Add eggs, one at a time, beating vigorously after each, until dough is smooth and glossy. You can use an electric mixer if you wish.

For the chocolate cream puffs, stir in 1/2 cup of sugar and 2 tablespoons cocoa with the flour. Add 1/2teaspoon orange zest with the first egg.

When mixture is completely mixed, either pipe the dough or drop by large spoonfuls onto a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake in a preheated 400F oven for 18-20 minutes. They should be golden brown and crispy. Cool on a rack and then cut in half and fill with your favourite ice-cream and drizzle with sauce of your choice if you desire. Recipe yields about 30 smaller puffs or 8 or 9 very large ones.

Season's Greetings

To the many fine citizens of this community, we'd like to offer our own best wishes and heartfelt appreciation for making us feel a part of it all.
We look forward to your continued support.

HALIBURTON TIM-BR Mart

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Blessings Of The Season

May God's love shine down upon you this Christmas.

Because we truly appreciate your business, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage and may your Christmas be filled with peace, love and joy and a New Year of health and prosperity.

Joe & Heather Roberts, family and staff

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Wigamog Inn RESORT

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR LOCAL PATRONS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT & FUTURE BUSINESS

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF WIGAMOG INN

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WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY

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Best Wishes of the Season and Happy New Year

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- "What A Nice Concept - All This Art Among The Flowers"
- "It Is Just Beautiful!"
- "The Work Of Artists Put In Such A Lovely Setting So We Can Enjoy It"

the art garden

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And Thank You For Your Enthusiastic Support.

Thank You.

Sylvia & Dick

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Thank you to all our clients that entrusted their special friends to our care this year.

May Christmas bring the music of laughter, the warmth of friendship and the spirit of love.

We wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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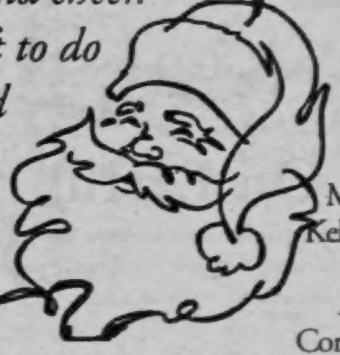
Brenda Hutchings
Shirley Milne
Jeremy Roberts
Laine Roberts
Jake Roberts
Terry Sicard
Roslind Clare
Sharon Bain
Cheryl James

Merry Christmas

Holiday time is near,
The time of joy and cheer.
Now all that's left to do
Is thank each and
every one of you!



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IGA Hometown Proud!

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One Mouse that roared

or... a short tale of woe, in which one self-proclaimed pacifist learns of the pitfalls lurking within any attempt to implement a "live and let live" philosophy, on even the smallest scale.

Kerry Riley

WINTER READING

IN THIS, THE SEASON OF PEACE and goodwill, when the lion reputedly lies down with the lamb, my thoughts are naturally drawn, once again, to that thorny philosophical question: Just how much abuse must a self-declared animal lover endure at the hands of one of God's creatures before she can retaliate in self-defense and still consider herself a friend of nature?

This is the sort of story in which positions must be established, right up front, stands taken, the cards laid on the table. And so I herein declare myself an unapologetic, died-in-the-wool, bleeding-heart, head-over-heels, great and goofy animal lover. Completely irredeemable. The cuter and furrier, the better.(A result, no doubt, of an overdose of Disney in my formative years, but back then, who knew?)

As a child, I embraced an elaborate anthropomorphism which extended to the inanimate world, and included a large personal responsibility. It was an ambitious, if unwieldy bit of metaphysics. I have had to get over, for example, the idea that the un-chosen Christmas trees suffer from rejection and that it was my duty to reduce the pain in the world by selecting the rattiest one. I still suffer some residual guilt, however, about the various cars I have, over time, abandoned to desolate scrap yard existences.

All this to concede that my adult "live and let live" ideology did not spring from entirely rational origins, and further, that I am an imperfect practitioner of my own faith. I freely admit that my weekly meat counter purchases involve intricate acts of denial, and my pacifist tendencies end with a big squish at earwigs.

I am, in short, in no position to lecture.

Nevertheless, from the moment I had any say in the matter at all, I determined that no animal (with the before-said exception of earwigs) would, if I could help it, come to grief within my circle of influence. And, at the age of 40, with a few unintentional and deeply regretted exceptions, I believed myself to have been a true and consistent adherent to this ideal.

Enter Mus musculus. The house mouse. It took a move to the country, and my first in-depth encounter with this bug-eyed little charmer, for me to begin to understand that I had, until then, been practising my philosophy on a mostly theoretical level, and that any attempt to apply philosophy to real life can complicate one's existence exponentially, in an astonishingly short period of time.

I can't recall, precisely, when the comprehension dawned that the mouse population in our new house had gotten out of hand. The only initial evidence that we were not alone came usually late at night, from the occasional, gentle plink of a sunflower seed shell as it hit the marble hearth at the bottom of a high stone wall in our livingroom.

I found this charming. I imagined small, whiskered faces peering down in consternation, assessing the seriousness of their misstep. What depths of hygienic insecurity, I wondered, led some individuals to proclaim, loudly and to anyone who would listen, their inability to tolerate a mouse. "Fear not," I thought, "for I am a kind-hearted person."

My arteries hardened somewhat, however, upon discovering later that fall that our house guests had, it seemed, invited the entire mouse population of Essonville to winter at our place and, perhaps more objectionably, that the elimination habits of Mus musculus were insufficiently organized to even qualify as habit. Mice, I feel qualified to inform you, eliminate with a gleeful abandon unrivaled elsewhere in the animal world. Anything more restrictive than random defecation is, apparently, a concept foreign to the mouse mind. (No wonder cats, with their own fastidious toilette, find them so despicable.) Suddenly, not to put too fine a point on it, there was mouse poop everywhere.

Bleach spray bottle in hand, I began the counter-offensive. Eventually I had to admit that mice could poop faster than I could clean. Still basically secure in my pro-mouse beliefs, I procured a live-trap, and proceeded with an elaborate and, what I can now see, was an overly self-righteous "mouse relocation project" which included – and it takes a strong person to admit this – small refugee packages consisting of a cache of peanuts, an assortment of suitable nesting material, and a one-way ticket to our barn. It was at this point, after all, the dead of winter.

No matter how many deportees I processed, however, the mouse population never seemed to dwindle. My faith in this method received a further serious blow, one evening, when I realized the mouse I was about to release to the barn, was, in fact, the same mouse I had released there the previous evening, easily identified by an odd white mark on its face. I began to suspect the little blighters were actually beating me back to the house.

A crisis of faith ensued. What to do? Spray bottle perpetually in hand, an evil thought took shape in my mind. Termination. Then, that wellspring of all human adaptability – rationalization — set in. It was, after all, a quick, painless, death. Could I hope for as much? It was the kindest thing, really. Life, for elderly mice, was, surely, no bowl of cherries.

I baited my first death trap.

Of course it didn't go well. After a short period of eerie calm, what did my wondering ears hear, but a frantic clatter emanating from the vicinity of the fruit cellar, a known Mus musculus hot spot. Eerie calm redescended. Well, I thought, with shaky irritation, that hardly represented the instantaneous, painless death, promised by the trap's manufacturer, but the objective had, at least, been achieved. Steeling myself to deal with the remains, my resolve evaporated with the commencement of a piteous peeping, followed by another interval of hideous clatter, and a Tiny Tim-like sound of dragging.

Eschewing the selfish comfort of squeamishness, I determined that the only honourable route left to me was to deal as quickly and efficiently as possible,with whatever horror I had wrought. I'd check myself into existential hell later.

Flinging the door to the fruit cellar open, the scene which presented itself somewhat exceeded my worst imaginings. The mouse, a once exquisite creature, had been caught by its hind leg. In its panicked attempts to shake off its captor, it has battered itself with its own trap. The leg was broken, an eye lost. There was a surprising amount of blood — everywhere. The trap had become lodged against the leg of a storage shelf, and although the mouse was still making valiant attempts to drag itself away, no progress was made,

I killed it with a broom.

"Why oh why, can't mice look more like earwigs?" I anguished. My mind/body interface toyed with the possibility of vomiting, then crying, but in the end, what emerged was hugely frustrated anger. "This is not who I am," I shouted into the void, stamping a mouse-murdering foot.

Out, once again, came the live trap — and the spray bottle. Blood-stained and guilt-driven, I redoubled my relocation efforts, adding a chunk of aged cheddar to the package, as further inducement for the deportees to remain deported. And, as winter wore away into spring, I began to feel that my efforts were paying off, and eventually, I was able to shelve the live trap entirely, unaware that the dwindling mouse problem was more a seasonal phenomenon than the result of my efforts, heroic though they might have been.

Fast forward to early fall. I had been noticing for some time, on trips to the basement, a distinctly unpleasant odour near a shelving unit which, however, resisted all attempts at discovery. Eventually it dissipat-

See Geneva page 35

Peace On Earth!

May the harmony of the winter landscape bring renewed hope for understanding and worldwide peace. Merry Christmas and many thanks.

Gordon Abel
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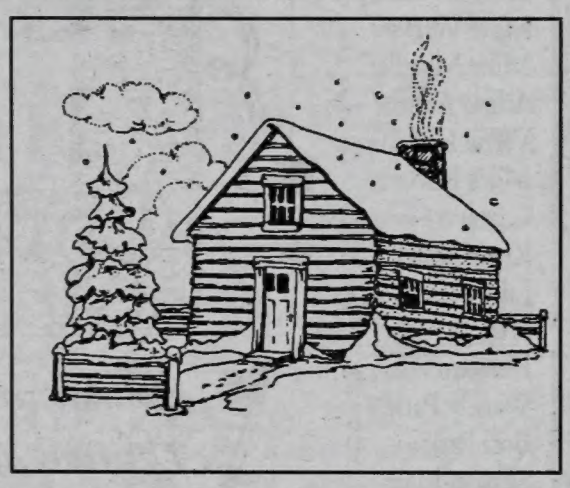

Thank you for your heartwarming patronage!

Our warmest greetings go out to you, but please don't forget to open the flue! (You never know who might drop in).
from
Staff & families of

WALKER'S
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Geneva Convention applies to mouse warfare

from page 34

ed, only to return occasionally, always defying detection.

One fateful day, however, precisely at the point where the smell had been, I heard a sound. A grating, teeth-on-tinfoil, sort of sound, coming from the long-ago-shelved live mouse trap. I forced myself to lift the lid. The scene which presented itself vastly exceeded my worst imaginings.

Huddled amidst the mummified remains of several of his less fortunate compatriots, like the last survivor of some long ago polar mission gone horribly wrong, was a small, exhausted looking mouse. Even his ears seemed to droop. Live traps, it seems, carry certain time constraints. It had never occurred to me that a retired live trap might continue to capture mice. I released him in the barn with hopelessly inadequate apologies, and, it goes without saying, a survival kit the size of Milwaukee.

Fall unfolded, the mice moved back in. Undone, once again, by their unbounded defecatory enthusiasm, I was forced to re-examine the extermination issue. At my wit's end, it seemed that a few messy deaths were probably preferable to any re-creation of the nihilistic horror I had unwittingly wrought with the live trap. There were no happy endings here, just bad or worse.

I purchased "new and improved" killer mouse traps, but I didn't feel good about it. To be fair, several quick and clean executions ensued before my mysterious fate to be the scourge of all mouse-kind re-asserted itself — in the form of the tiniest, most winsomely Disney-esque mouse I had yet to encounter.

We met, late at night, in the fruit cellar, which I had entered in the midst of some household chore after a weekend away. There, with a diminutive hind foot pinioned in a trap, he sat. As our eyes met, something left his face – I think it was hope. Only a sleepy-eyed resignation remained — actually advanced dehydration, which can be easily confused with sleepy-eyed resignation. No doubt he had been pinned there for the entire weekend. He shifted his eyes in an expression which clearly said, "Just get it over with."

Perhaps it was the otherworldly mood peculiar to late night fruit cellars, or the subterranean workings of suppressed mouse-murder memories, but I was overcome at that moment by the conviction that something important lay in the balance here — that the death of this mouse, in this manner, because of me, would cross some unacceptable line, would tip some subtle balance, would just be going too darned far.

..... after several semi-forced feedings of sugar water, "Roger," as I dubbed him, was looking considerably perkier, ensconced in a pillow of fluffed Kleenex, his little stump bathed in antibiotic ointment. Perky enough to survey, with some interest, the array of tasties assembled for his consideration, he settled finally on a nibble of Gorgonzola and a walnut. Fifty nine dollars and thirty seven cents later, and Roger, my three-legged "mouse of redemption" was housed in a suitably palatial style – nothing short of the "ultra" small rodent enviro-habitat, loaded with options, in a stylish cherry red. The exercise wheel, I realized too late, was a clumsy miscalculation.

For the better part of three weeks, Roger basked in the reflected glow of my regret, our relationship a tiny island of detente in the never-ending mouse-house owner wars. Fresh produce was procured to tempt his increasingly discriminating palate, the "habitat" shunted about the house, so that he might take the sunshine.

It's hard to say at precisely what point the saviour/saved relationship alters from one of devotion, to something less exalted, but I do remember, sometime in the third week of Roger's convalescence, feeling, as I watched him recline daintily on a sunny cotton puff and survey a freshly peeled grape with an air of weary hauteur, that he had grown rather plump and self-satisfied ... perhaps even calculating.

"This is a long way from my original plans for you," I found myself thinking, uncharitably. I began to wonder just how long mice lived.

In Roger's case, I never got to find out, because, in a typically quixotic move, he chose to escape from his earthly paradise one night when the habitat hatch was inadvertently left open, and was never seen again. It might have been something I said.

I sincerely wish I had a tidy ending for this story, some nugget of wisdom to offer tender-hearted souls, crushed between the opposing forces of necessity and inclination, but the truth is, I myself have been unable to craft a resolution to the dilemma which holds up under scrutiny.

In our house, seasonal warfare continues to be waged, with a sort of built-in Geneva Convention, which dictates that while one may kill a mouse outright, if they are only somewhat damaged, no stone must be left unturned in the rehabilitation effort, which, if successful, allows relocation to the barn, from which, they are free to attempt to re-infiltrate the house so we can do it all over again. On a clear day, the inconsistencies in this approach leave me breathless.

I continue to be haunted by the memories of the mouse-mummies, the cruel irony of their death in my "live trap," and by the slowly dawning realization that when I tossed that trap, in a fit of disgust, into the garbage, I did not, in fact, remove the lid, and that it is most likely sitting in a dump somewhere, filled with dead mice, accruing demerit points against my immortal soul.

If there are indeed pearly gates, I fully expect to be met there by a throng of black-cowled shades, their faces a mousey version of Munch's "Scream," demanding reparation. And some saintly accountant, with a "seen it all before" shake of the head, will strike foreverthe appellation "animal lover" from my résumé.

In the end, I can offer only a warning. Some ideas exist most comfortably in a theoretical realm; beyond that, there be dragons.

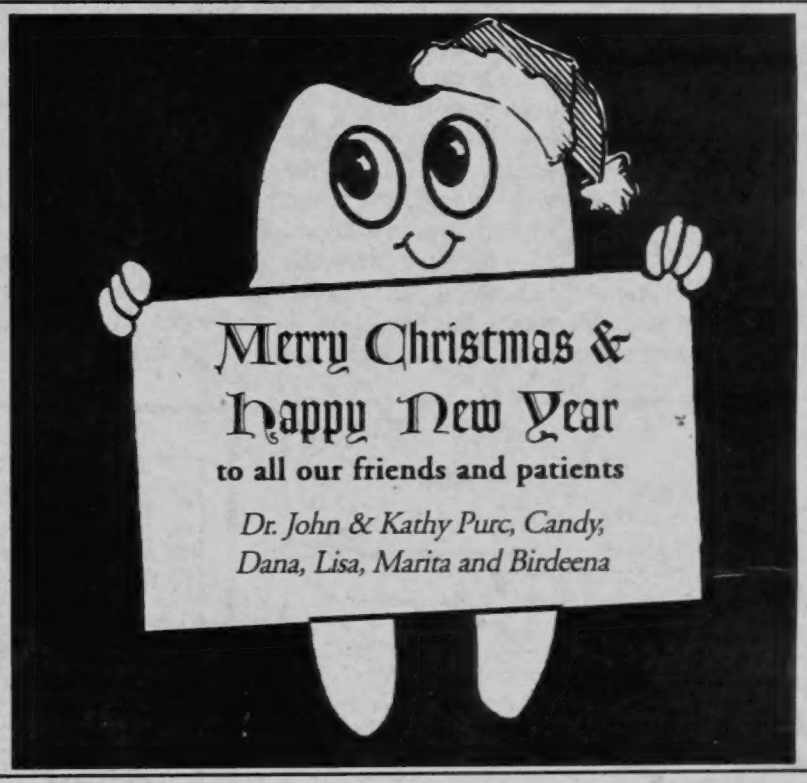
Let The Joy Of Christmas Ring

This, our favourite time of year, is filled with good friends, good times, and much good cheer. Here's wishing you happy holidays and a very healthy and happy new year!

From the Management and Staff

CIBC

Haliburton • Minden



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

to all our friends and patients

Dr. John & Kathy Purc, Candy, Dana, Lisa, Marita and Birdeena

SEASON'S GREETINGS

and many thanks for all the recommendations during the year.

Ennis and John at the

LAKEVIEW MOTEL

PEACE

Greetings of the Season

Time for a new beginning! May this be a year of peace and tranquility

JOY

LOVE

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